Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-242
Friday
16 December 1988

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Cuba

Soviet Ambassador on Aftermath of Earthquake

Devastation Cited

FL1512231888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1237 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Interview with Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Yuriy Petrov by reporter Roberto Agudo; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Agudo, in Spanish with simultaneous Russian translation] Mr Ambassador, I would like you to explain to the Cuban people, through the "Revista de la Manana" program, what is the present situation of the region affected by the earthquake?

[Petrov, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] As you know, esteemed comrades, on 7 December the regions of northern Armenia were affected by a strong earthquake. Its force exceeded 10 (?bales). Many villages and cities were destroyed.

In the disaster area there were 700,000. According to today's information, there are 55,000 victims, 13,000 wounded 6,000 of these are hospitalized. Most of these in the cities of Spitak and Leninakan, as well as four rural villages.

We can estimate the size of the disaster. Spitak is completely destroyed. The city of Leninakan, which was inhabited by more than 250,000, is 80 percent destroyed. Of the 120 villages in this area, 28 were completely destroyed. In some villages almost 80 percent of the inhabitants were killed. Some 500,000 people were left homeless. In the disaster area, the people had no water or electricity during the first few days. The situation was very difficult.

Presently, the adequate measures are being taken. We should say that this is the worst earthquake in Soviet history. As a result, it has caused material loss and, most regrettably, human loss.

[Agudo] Mr Ambassador, you have been able to see the activities of our people and spoken with Comrade Fidel. I would like you to tell us, as much as possible, about all the activities you have carried out.

[Petrov] During the past few days, I have had several meetings with Comrade Fidel. Almost everyday I have had meetings with leaders of the PCC, state, and government. I should say, in all honesty, even though I have been ambassador to Cuba for a short time, I have seen a good brotherly attitude toward the Soviet people. During these tragic days, this feeling of solidarity has shown itself in a special way. We Soviets, who are far away from the Soviet Union, could feel, in a special way, this feeling of comradery, this solidarity. It is not only the condolences that were expressed, but the practical wish to help. I want to say during these past few days, several planes carrying aid have been sent to the Soviet Union. These planes were seen off by Comrade Fidel Castro and other leaders. The Cuban comrades are already in the area where the earthquake struck. We have already seen, on television, some reports from this area.

We appreciate in a special way the help that was sent. In the field of medicine, blood has been sent. The day before yesterday a highly-qualified medical contingent was sent. I saw them at the airport and spoke with them. I should stress that these people went with much enthusiasm and a strong desire to help. Many of these comrades are complying with their internationalist duties. The farewell was very significant because of Comrade Fidel. We are sure that they are already working. Yesterday evening we said farewell to another plane. The plane that carried the medical equipment also carried 1,000 tons of citrates.

The embassy is receiving many condolences from the Cuban people and has been visited by thousands of people from Havana. The leadership of the PCC has also visited the embassy. Comrade Fidel gave a warm and profound inscription [in the condolences book at the Soviet Embassy] We know that there are thousands of Cubans willing to go to the Soviet Union to help and we truly value that. I want to stress, on behalf of the government, profound appreciation.

[Agudo] I would like to ask another question. Certain foreign press—aside from the pain felt for the Soviets at this time—insists on an element of propaganda. In other words, they say there is a relationship between the earthquake and a recent Soviet nuclear explosion in the area. The USSR's Institute of Earth Physics has denied this kind of report. Furthermore, other foreign scientific organizations have also denied it. I would like for you to tell us about this.

[Petrov] According to the information available to the embassy, there is no correlation between the nuclear experiments and the earthquake. The Institute of Earth Physics testifies to that and we must trust that information. Regarding the insinuations of the press, it is very difficult to find the pretext. Maybe it is related to the lack of information, or it may be a propagandistic factor which someone may be trying to take advantage of during this very difficult moment in our country. It may even be to [word indistinct] this international aid, this solidarity throughout the world which can be seen these days. Today, from different parts of the world, we are receiving in Moscow and Yerevan not only condolences but also concrete aid. Daily, every minute, more and more planes come to Yerevan which bring aid from all over the planet. Over fifty countries are involved in this task. Resources are collected in many countries and we appreciate it and see it as a manifestation of the cohesion that characterizes the international community today. We are certain that in 1 or 2 years, with the joint efforts

of the Soviet people and of those who have come to help us, we will be able to reconstruct this destruction; and the Soviet and Armenian people will never forget this aid.

[Agudo] You were talking about solidarity. We understand that 46 countries in the world at this moment are with the Soviet people—not in words, but actually helping the Soviet people in the region of Armenia. That is one issue. However, on another issue, we would like for you to expand on the report carried by VREMYA yesterday which states that the whole area devastated by the earthquake will be reconstructed in 2 years.

[Petrov] As you know, the Politburo commission headed by Comrade Ryzhkov came to the earthquake zone right after the quake. Comrade Gorbachev came to the earthquake zone in Yerevan right after his New York trip. All the questions related to overcoming the consequences of the earthquake were examined there, at the site. Today, all the republics of our country are sending equipment to Armenia. The task is the following: In the course of 2 years, we must overcome all the consequences of this tragedy. To accomplish this, we must build 5 million meters for housing, hospitals, pediatric hospitals, and all that is necessary for a normal life for the people. According to approximate data, we should spend 5 billion rubles. However, we are certain that based on the joint efforts, we will be able to solve this problem. There is no other way.

[Agudo] We would like to thank the Ambassador, Comrade Petrov, for his kindness in coming to "Revista de la Manana" and for the very current information he has provided us.

[Petrov] In conclusion, on behalf of the Soviet people, and the government, I would like to express to the Cuban people, the party's leadership, and personally to Comrade Fidel, the words of profound appreciation. Thank you very much, dear comrades. [previous sentence in Spanish by Petrov]

Medical Supplies Arrive

FL1512145588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Approximately 100 planes, 4 of them Cuban, have arrived at the disaster area with medication, medical equipment, prefabricated houses, and demolition equipment. Up to now, more than 60 countries, as well as various international organizations, have sent help to the earthquake victims in Armenia.

Presently, more than 1,700 foreign volunteers are working in the areas devastated by the quake.

According to official figures, the quake affected some 700,000 people. Almost half a million of these have lost their homes.

The chief of the Soviet Government, Nikolay Ryzhkov, [as heard] said that the donations received from the USSR and abroad will be at the complete disposal of Armenia and will be used for the reconstruction of the damaged areas.

Angolan President's Upcoming Visit Significant

FL1512191188 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Jose Eduardo dos Santos, president of the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola will arrive in our country tomorrow in fulfillment of an official and friendly invitation issued by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

This meeting is significant since it comes after the signing of the Brazzaville protocol and a few days before the signing in New York of a tripartite agreement between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, and a bilateral agreement between Cuba and Angola. This will culminate the process for a negotiated solution to the conflict in the southwest region of Africa.

The heroism of the Angolan-Cuban troops has been the main factor that paved the way, through these agreements, to peace and security in Angola and to the complete independence of Namibia.

Castro Receives U.S. Legislative Delegation

FL1512135688 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] In Havana, President Fidel Castro has received a delegation of nine U.S. Congressmen which was headed by New York representative Charles Rangel.

At the meeting, the representatives discussed, among other subjects, Cuba's contribution to fighting drug trafficking.

The legislators, six Republicans and three Democrats, also met with the Cuban ministers of justice and education and with the attorney general of the Republic.

Risquet Meets With Guinea-Bissau Leader

FL1512185388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1541 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo member and Central Committee secretary, has met in Havana with Vasco Cabral, Politburo member and permanent secretary for the African Independence Party of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, PAIGC.

During the meeting, both leaders studied the present state of bilateral relations between the countries and expressed their satisfaction at the close ties of cooperation and friendship that exist.

Risquet and Cabral talked about international affairs, especially about South Africa. They agreed that only by abolishing apartheid could peace and stability be achieved by the countries in the African southern cone.

The Politburo member of the PAIGC highly valued Cuba's contribution to Angola's territorial integrity and security, as well as Namibia's independence.

Government Delegation Arrives in Beijing

FL1512171688 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1542 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] A delegation of the Cuban Government,headed by Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz, arrived today in Beijing, China.

The delegation is there to hold talks with the Chinese Government to expand bilateral economic cooperation.

The representatives from our country will participate in the first annual meeting of the Governmental Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation which will begin in Beijing tomorrow.

'Control' Key Word in Crime Prevention Policy

FL1612041088 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Station Commentary]

[Text] In the past few weeks we have found out about numerous operations carried out by the police against persons who violate the law. This confirms that when dealing with matters in this area, we will act with the utmost firmness.

In previous commentaries read in this same tribunal, we warned with absolute clarity—no one should fool himself or belive in false illusions. To be flexible or even generous, does not mean weakness; on the contrary, the facts show this with a very simple logic. Our revolution has known how to face and defeat the aggressive policies of the most powerful empire in the world—that implies strength. With the kind of dignity and integrity that surprises the world, our revolution has overcome the most prolonged and complete blockade recalled in contemporary history—that takes wisdom.

How could anyone think that our revolution would weaken in the face of little groups which are maladapted and corrupted and who are often drenched by the imperial venom and lies? That is simply ridiculous! If there is something that will always be guaranteed in our country, it is the protection of social and personal property, the legitimate interests of all the people and each private citizen, and the effective use of their duties and rights. That protection emanates from our laws and institutions of order.

However, it is not the revolution's policy to (?to brag) about the arrests of those who commit crimes. The essense of our policy, more so than the fight against crime, is to fight against that which causes it. Quite often, those causes originate in negligence, lack of control, routiness, and lack of sensibility. To control is the key word—precise and careful economic control. If it is necessary, like Fidel said, make this activity a habit.

Dominican Republic

Jorge Blanco Attorneys To Seek Release

FL1512154388 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0937 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Excerpt] The attorneys for Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco have confirmed that they will take the legal recourses necessary to get him released.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Dr Virgilio Bello Rosa said Jorge Blanco's defense will ask for bail, request a writ of habeas corpus, or take any other actions required. Bello Rosa said actions will be taken at an opportune time. He said that Jorge Blanco will not (?act according to) the wishes and [word indistinct] of his enemies.

Speaking on the "Revista 110" program of Dr (Julio Jacien), Bello Rosa said that the decisions in the case against Jorge Blanco should be made by the tribunals. [passage omitted]

Workers Federation Criticizes Economic Policy

FL1512163388 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0951 GMT 15 Dec 88

[All figures as heard; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] The Dominican Workers Federation has severely criticized the government's economic policy that has been applied this year. The secretary general of the union, Rafael Pimentel, has said that the purchasing power of the people decreased by more than 65 percent in 1988. Pimentel said during a press conference that the government's economic policy has eaten away at the real value of the workers' salary.

[Pimentel] "Only a few more days remain before a year ends which has been the most restrictive, most [word indistinct], and most disastrous, particularly for the working class and the people in general.

"The purchasing power of the Dominican peso has diminished by more than 65 percent. Inflation will close at approximately 70 percent at the end of this year.

"The reason for this difficult situation, which has been translated into hunger and misery for the Dominican people and workers, is the disastrous, incorrect, unjust, and criminal economic policy that Balaguer's government has applied this year."

Pimentel, the highest leader of the federation, said that out of a plan to invest 3 billion pesos, the government planned to invest 500 million pesos in rural areas.

[Pimentel] "The government invested more than 1 billion pesos this year. More than 200 million pesos were invested a month on projects that were unproductive while investments in rural areas did not exceed 50 million pesos a month. I think this shows that investments did not reach the rural areas this year, not even the 500 million pesos."

Pimentel said that the executive branch should restructure its economic policy so that unproductive projects are (?eliminated).

[Pimentel] "We want to tell the president of the Republic that he should listen to the voice of the people in the year 1989. He should listen to the demands of the trade union and rural sectors who are seeking [passage indistinct]."

Haiti

5,000 Partake in Antigovernment Demonstration

FL1512201788 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Report by Mirebalais correspondent [Elizaire Etienne]

[Excerpts] Recently, approximately 5,000 people took to the streets in Thomassique. These demonstrators (?gathered on) the square, demanding a cleanup of government administration personnel. The great majority of this personnel consists of people who collaborated with the former regime that tormented the nation. The demonstrators yelled slogans against the communal council headed by (Andre Tessel Charles).

It seems the town is greatly divided, and this is hindering the area's development. This communal committee has now lost credibility, as far as Thomassique's population is concerned. [passage omitted]

Also, last Monday, a group of demonstrators took to the streets in (Domond), a place which used to have a very big public market on Mondays. Some 3 or 4 years ago, the (?people from) (Jeremie) moved this market to Dufailly. Thus, the people of (Domond) would like this market returned.

Barricades were set up and people were prevented from going to Dufailly. All the vehicles had to return to Mirebalais.

Later, soldiers from Mirebalais attempted to stop this, with (?masks) and weapons in hand. Demonstrators were beaten and forced to flee. People were hurt.

Dominican Republic Travelers Said Mistreated

FL1512192388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] There was an arrest made and a glass door shattered yesterday morning [13 December] at the Dominican Consulate following an argument at the consulate involving a man named Roland who organizes trips to the Dominican Republic. Several policemen appeared at the consulate to make the trip organizers leave the premises. Roland was taken to jail.

Haitians who travel to the Dominican Republic to shop are protesting mistreatment along the way by the Dominicans, as well as thieves, who continue to rob them despite the Dominican Government's promise to provide security.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] He pulled a gun on the trip organizer.

[Reporter] When did this happen?

[Speaker] This morning. Roland. He pulled out a gun and shot at Roland. [passage omitted]

The problem there [this morning] was the same old problem you know about—they are taking Haitians' things at the border. [passage omitted]

They seize merchandise and also harass you. The other day they grabbed me and tore my shirt.

[Reporter] Where in the Dominican Republic does this happen?

[Speaker] As soon as you get to the Barahona(Duverge) crossroads, all the way to Jimani. [passage omitted]

There is no security whatsoever on that road. On the contrary, there are thieves dressed in military uniforms. [passage omitted]

[Second speaker] [Passage omitted] What we are asking for is respect. For example, with so many people traveling across that border, if the people traveling are not traveling illegally, but are legal travelers, I think the Haitian Government should (?take it upon itself to) provide security for the Haitians because we are not illegal travelers. For example, we pay $19 for a laissez-passer [permit pass], $12 for a Dominican visa, and another $2 at the Jimani border. Therefore, the Haitian Government does know that we are on the road, and the Dominican Government does know that we have entered the country; so I don't see why we have to put up with problems from the moment we cross the border until we reach (?Santo Domingo). [end recording]

18 Dec Peasants Mobilization Day Announced

FL1512190388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Last 6 December, diverse organizations—such as the National Alliance of People's Organizations [ANOP] and the Organization for the Assembly and Defense of the Peasants [Organizasyon Pou Rasanbleman Defans Peyizan]—raised their voices to mark the 59th anniversary of the peasant massacre in Marche a Terre; and in memory of these peasants, the abovementioned organizations announced the launching on 6 December of a campaign of mobilization against the high cost of living, marketplace taxes, and the acts of repression being committed by the rural police against the rural population. [passage omitted]

Along this same line of thought, the Organization for the Assembly and Defense of the Peasants, a branch of the ANOP, announces, for 18 December, a day of mobilization with the peasants in protest of the high cost of living. According to two peasant members of that organization, it is at present almost impossible to buy sugar in the marketplace; whereas the government is taxing everything. They say they don't see what the money they pay in taxes is used for. That is why they ask all peasants, wherever they may be, to mobilize on 18 December. [passage omitted]

The Small Vendors Organization of the Rue des Remparts, which is affiliated with the House of Women [Kay Fanm] supports this day of mobilization with the peasants. According to the small vendors, the peasants demands are the same as theirs, for—they say—they themselves are subjected to hassle and injustice by tax collectors daily in the marketplaces.

Also, in a press release, the Peasants Solidarity Movement [Mouvman Tet Kole Peyizan Yo] says that it too supports the 18 December mobilization against taxes, the high cost of living, and repression by section chiefs.

Officials Interviewed on Gressier Incident

FL1512194488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] The former magistrate of Gressier, (Valcius Estainval), tried on Saturday 10 December to kill two members of Gressier's new communal committee, (Lovens Romulus) and (Jean Viaux). After the report filed by these two men, the Port-au-Prince police arrested Mr (Estainval), who was released temporarily less than 48 hours after he was imprisoned.

Mr (Estainval), who was to have appeared in court in Port-au-Prince yesterday morning, spent the entire day in the office of the examining magistrate.

Yesterday morning, we interviewed the two citizens against who Mr (Estainval) reportedly tried to attack. They said that they are astonished to see a person arrested for attempted murder simply released like that.

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] [(?Viaux)] It happened at 1610, Saturday afternoon. [passage omitted]

I cannot understand this—to have someone try to kill you and then to have the doyen make such a decision, to just release a criminal like that temporarily, to not keep him in jail until we all have to go to court. [passage omitted]

Indeed, yesterday, when the Department of Interior came to install us, a group of our partisans were with us, demonstrating with us. Suddenly another group of demonstrators appeared at the bandstand. We didn't see where they came from.

Napoleon, the Radio Soleil journalist, was attending the installation. As he was leaving the installation, all of (Estainval's) supporters, who were demonstrating, caught him and beat on him. It was our security service that helped him retain his cassette.

[Reporter] Why, in your opinion, was Napoleon attacked?

[(?Viaux)] Well, they didn't want him there. They didn't want him to hear the speeches by the magistrate and by the representative of the Department of the Interior—so they could claim that there had not really been an installation. [end recording]

Army Punishes Soldiers for Beating Civilians

FL1512133288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] The Haitian Army has punished a group of soldiers who arrested and beat several civilians last Saturday. The beatings were said to have occurred in a poor section of Port-au-Prince on the same day that General Prosper Avril made a speech on human rights.

An army officer said by way of a communique that the soldiers acted on their own initiative and made illegal arrests.

Commander Regrets Acts

FL1512184988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] A press release from the Air Corps says that the commander of the Air Corps informs the public in general and the press in particular that a small group of soldiers committed certain acts of indiscipline on Saturday, 10 December 1988. They arrested people illegally on Rue Tiremasse.

The commander regrets these barbarous acts committed by certain Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] enlisted men. Their behavior is prejudicial to the reputation of the FADH in general.

The commander of the Air Corps announces that disciplinary measures have been taken against the principal authors of these acts, and that an investigation is being conducted which will lead to identifying everyone who participated in the crimes.

The press release is signed by Lieutenant Colonel (Renan Jean-Louis), FADH, commander of the Air Corps.

Nine Soldiers Reportedly Discharged

FL1512182388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] According to the military authorities in Saint-Marc, nine soldiers have been discharged there. The authorities say the soldiers were discharged for indiscipline. However, according to the local people, the discharged soldiers participated in the uprooting [dechoukay] by the criminals and macoutes in Saint-Marc [group san maman sen mak la], after 17 September.

[Correspondent (Fernand Millon)] Upon orders from the Army General Headquarters, nine soldiers have been thrown out of the barracks in Saint-Marc. This was an unconfirmed rumor that had been circulating in Saint-Marc, but when we went to see the commander of the military district of Saint-Marc, he told us it was true.

According to the captain, the men were discharged simply because they were undisciplined. However, we were told that these soldiers are the soldiers who participated in the uprooting of the macoutes and thugs in Saint-Marc following the 17 September coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Well, it looks as if the same thing is going on in Gonaives. According to rumors that have been circulating in Gonaives (?this) week, nine soldiers have been discharged. It is reported that they have been discharged because they were involved in the movement to uprise after 17 September. There are also people who say that it is because they arrested Dieuseul Placide [former representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Gonaives].

Meanwhile, we have not been able to verify this rumor. Our correspondent says that every time he contacts people at the Gonaives barracks they say they know nothing about this. However, the rumor is in the streets, just as it was in the streets in Saint-Marc, where they acknowledge having booted out nine Army nine soldiers who participated in the uprising movement after 17 September.

According to the rumor in Gonaives, the discharged soldiers are people who wanted there to be a change in Gonaives. [passage omitted]

MNP-28's Belizaire on Dissolution of Bloc

FL1512012488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Engineer Dejean Belizaire, secretary general of the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November, MNP-28; Dr Turneb Delpe, secretary general of the National Progressive and Democratic Party of Haiti [Pati Nasyonal Progresis Demokratik Dayiti] [party name as heard]; and Serges Gilles, leader of Panpra, the Nationalistic and Progressive Party of Haiti [Pati Nasyonalis e Progresis Ayisyen] [name as heard] the day before yesterday decided to dissolve their coalition, the BIP, Patriotic Unitarian Bloc. We interviewed Mr Belizaire yesterday afternoon, in order to find out why the BIP was dissolved. He told us this decision was a strategic one, which would (?help) the three organizations forming the BIP to blossom.

Mr Belizaire pointed out to us that these three organizations had become very strong together, but that each was very weak alone. Let's listen to him.

[Begin Belizaire recording] [Passage omitted] Actually, the three organizations that made up the BIP are highly disciplined organizations; and this is why you learned about the dissolution of the BIP abruptly. Actually, if you take a good look and have a good memory, you will see that for the past 2 months or so, these organizations have on many occasions taken different stands. This means that the situation which today leads us to dissolve the BIP... [changes thought] Well, the discussions were already ongoing. That's why the BIP has been practically on the back burner, so to speak, for the past 2 months. And finally, yesterday, we were able to put an end to the discussions, in order to move forward. [end recording]

Many people thought that the BIP dissolved because Mr Belizaire accepted a position in the public administration. Regarding this matter, the MNP-28's leader thinks that anyone who thinks this way lacks understanding of the democratic spirit. Let's listen to him on this matter.

[Begin Belizaire recording] Well, it could look that way, but actually I think it would be a shame if something like that caused BIP's dissolution. Actually, BIP is one of the organizations doing a lot of work, and asking for change, in Haiti.

As far as I am concerned, that's not the reason at all. The BIP has been in the process of dissolving for the past 2 or 3 months, you see. BIP has been on the back burner, so to speak, for the past 2 months. And lately, all the the members have taken different positions.

If you go back to 29 November, for example, you will see that they announced Dejean Belizaire, BIP member. However, when I spoke, I had to speak as a member of

the MNP-28, because I felt that I was not authorized—nor was anyone else—to do anything at all in the name of the BIP, and it has been ths way for the past month or two. [end recording]

Government, Residents Quarrel Over Housing

FL1512104088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 13 Dec 88

[Excerpts] There is a quarrel going on between the EPPLS [Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux, Public Company for the Promotion of Low-Cost Housing] and the people who live in Cite Drouillard over housing that the EPPLS built for them. Here is (Jacob Virgil) with more details.

[(Virgil)] The people who live in the houses that the EPPLS built in Cite Drouillard in 1981 and 1982 are protesting the writs the EPPLS sent them asking them to return the keys to these houses. The people say that the EPPLS gave them only the building materials, and that it had forced them to sign a contract to pay $7 per month for 10 years, with the houses becoming theirs after 10 years. However, they also pointed out that the contract provided for roads being built and for the houses' occupants being given a job so that they could pay the $7. They say that after the events of 1986, they learned that foreign countries had sent $40 million, and that that is how the EPPLS had been able to build these houses. Since then, they in Cite Drouillard had decided not to pay the $7 that the EPPLS had asked them to pay each month.

They have not paid for 3 years, and now they are very surprised to see that EPPLS has sent them a writ asking them to give back the keys to these houses. Let's listen to some of them.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] They gave us the materials to build a one-room house, for example. But we are the ones who had to pay the workmen, to pay to have the roof put on, pay the masons who put up the blocks, and all that. All they gave us was some material to build a one-room house. Absolutely everything else that had to be done to the land was paid for by us, and also we paid to build with the material they gave us. Now they say the houses belong to the government. We feel that if the government were giving someone something, like the Linthau II project down there, it (?should) do it completely. They put in electricity for them down there, for example, and so forth. Those people, yes, you can say that the government gave them houses. [end recording]

We tried to meet with officials at the EPPLS office at the Drouillard community center in connection with this matter. We met with Mr (Antenor Charlot), who is the accountant for that office. He told us that some people had not paid for 3 years, and that they had been sent this warning writ to remind them that they owe money, and that they must respect the contract and come pay, so that the project can work. Let's listen to him.

[Begin (Charlot) recording] I (?would) tell them (?they owed 3 months). They (?told) me they had problems and asked me if I could let them pay a little later, and so forth, you see? They would describe their problems, and I tried to be understanding. [passage omitted] At $7 per month, there are people who owe 53 months, 40 months, 2 years, and so forth, and don't want to pay. [passage omitted] Ultimately, the people must pay, so that the project can work. [end recording]

Trinidad and Tobago

Minister Calls on Canada To End Visa Restrictions

FL1512132588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] A top Trinidadian official has called on Canada to remove its new restrictions on visitors from Trinidad and Tobago. Conceding that it is Canada's right to impose visa restrictions on any country if it wants to, External Affairs Minister Dr Sahadeo Basdeo said the restrictions should be removed. He said he would be meeting with the Canadian authorities in Port-of-Spain shortly to discuss the matter.

Immigration authorities in Canada say they are pleased so far with the results of the new visa restrictions. Officials say the restrictions may already put a stop to abuses of the Canadian immigration system.

Salinas on Opposition, Economy, Future Plans

PM1512121488 Paris LE FIGARO in French 12 Dec 88 p 6

[Interview with new President Carlos Salinas de Gortari by Jacques Jacquet-Francillon in Mexico on 2 December]

[Excerpt] [Jacquet-Francillon] You have just begun your presidential term amid difficult circumstances. Your election has been and still is disputed by the opposition. They may or may not be correct, but this is their claim.

Have you been the victim of your principles to some extent, and the creator of your own problems?

For instance: You strongly urged Miguel de la Madrid, your predecessor, to liberalize the old Mexican political process. As a result, for the first time in almost 60 years, opposition candidates had real opportunity to express their views in an election in Mexico on 6 July...to express their opposition to you at your expense!

For instance: As budget minister in the previous administration, you were the main architect of a strict austerity plan, which was certainly a courageous plan but it placed a heavy burden on the nation's poorest classes. As a result many people did not vote for you....

However, in your inauguration speech you announced that you intend to continue relentlessly on the same path whatever the cost.... Why?

[Salinas] First, there is the political aspect. I am convinced that we must recognize that Mexico is living in a new era. A new generation has come forward and it wants more freedom of speech in the sphere of political action; it is a generation imbued with a new political culture and which demands respect for its choices.

I intend to turn these aspirations into reality.

We must accept the challenge which this new generation represents; I do not think that those who repeat the same speeches and ask the same questions as in the past will be equal to the political challenge which awaits us. It is therefore out of conviction and also in a spirit of political realism that I have adopted this democratic course—it is for the good of Mexico.

[Jacquet-Francillon] You are said to have the desire of turning Mexico into a real modern democracy in 6 years, before the end of your mandate. This seems to be a considerable task. How do you intend to tackle it?

[Salinas] Slowly, because the aim is to strengthen Mexican unity and not to encourage division.

It is not the political system which I intend to change, but the practices of political life. I am anxious to stress the Mexican political system's great qualities. It is a system which has enabled us to have 60 years in which governments have alternated without upheavals; it has enabled various opinions to find areas of agreement on fundamental points. I challenge you to find many countries able to present such a political record.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What will your "political modernization" comprise?

[Salinas] The changes which we will make will reflect the country's political situation. We will have to proceed in a gradual way if we want to secure the vital consensus.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you not think—as your country's press seems to suggest—that your main opponents in this political modernization process will not be in the opposition, but in the ranks of your own PRI among the "old guard" which finds the PRI's control over the state very convenient? Do you think that they will allow you to proceed?

[Salinas] My answer is that the PRI is already being changed. The party leadership has just been renewed with the aim of finding politicians who are open to modernization and change. I think I can say that they are really aware of this need for change but—and I emphasize this—it is an awareness which does not require us to abandon what we have built but to use it as a springboard.

Regarding the opposition movements, I have begun a dialogue with a few who are showing a spirit of modernization. Others seem to be clinging to the past too much. However, I want Mexico to move forward, not to regress.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you think it is possible for there to be a real rapprochement with the opposition—be it right or left wing—with the possible offer of government participation?

[Salinas] Ours is not a parliamentary system and we are not a minority in Congress. I have, therefore, not contemplated a "participation" government nor a "cohabitation" formula. Accepting competition allows different political organizations the opportunity to aspire to all positions which are subject to the people's suffrage.

[Jacquet-Francillon] I realize that nothing forces you to offer any opposition group government participation to secure a majority which you already have; but would you consider it to win broader public support?

[Salinas] I have not envisaged that.... But I won't say it is impossible.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Let us turn to "economic modernization". First, let us take your figures alone. What will the inflation rate in 1988 be compared to the previous year?

[Salinas] I base my calculations on the Central Bank's figures. The important thing is that we have moved from an inflation rate of 15 percent in January to an inflation rate of 0.8 percent in October—the last figure which we have. This means that our fight against inflation has produced clear results.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What annual rate does that give?

[Salinas] That depends. The 15 percent rate corresponds to high inflation and the 0.8 percent figure to stabilization. The challenge is to keep inflation under control.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What is the present growth rate compared with 1977?

[Salinas] There is very slight growth. I would like to say that Mexico has experienced many years of stagnation. That is why I said, and I repeat, that the return to growth is not just an aim but a real necessity.

[Jacquet-Francillon] We are coming to that. One last figure: How big is Mexico's foreign debt and what interest was being paid when you took office?

[Salinas] The foreign debt is around 100 billion dollars and interest payments are around 9.5 billion dollars.

[Jacquet-Francillon] The left-wing opposition is proposing—or rather demanding—an immediate end to debt repayments... You are now saying (and I quote your inaugural speech): "The Mexican people's interests come before those of creditors." What is meant by this?

[Salinas] Exactly what it says. There are now 85 million inhabitants in Mexico, and another 10 million will be added during my term of office over the next 6 years. Without growth, Mexico cannot have a democratic society given the social challenge that implies. But all growth will be impossible if we continue to transfer 5 percent of GNP abroad each year.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What does that mean in clear terms?

[Salinas] It is vital to renegotiate the debt on the following points: no net transfer of resources abroad; the possibility of renegotiating several times a year; a reduction in the total long-term debt and the possibility of reducing the proportion of the national product owed in debt repayments before the end of this administration.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you hope to achieve all that?

[Salinas] We have already paid a high price. The Mexicans' living standards cannot be further reduced and since we have a responsible policy which does not aspire, as may have been the case in the past, to make others outside our borders bear the cost of our shortcomings or mistakes, we can now request renegotiation which will guarantee growth and not just interest payments on the debt.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Is that your main objective?

[Salinas] No. My government's first official action was to launch a program which, without waiting for growth, meets the Mexicans' social demands—infant nutrition, feeding families, the quality of school equipment, and flexible loans for low-cost housing. It is essential for me to show the Mexicans that we intend to solve the economic problem, and find answers to the social question.

[Jacquet-Francillon] How far are you prepared to go in your policy of privatizing the public sector?

[Salinas] I will not touch strategic enterprises, as the Constitution explicitly stipulates—oil, electricity, railroads.... That is constitutionally essential. However, I am prepared to accept private investment in sectors which were formerly closed to it.... I need state resources to meet social requirements: education, healthcare, housing, the environment.... But the private sector should invest in the road network, dams, telecommunications, and urban services... In other words, there are great opportunities for national and foreign investment.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What are you prepared to do to encourage foreign investment?

[Salinas] I am prepared to provide clear rules, a stable macroeconomic climate, and the opportunity to be involved in a market with enormous growth potential.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Do you still advocate broad elimination of customs barriers? Canada has just voted in favor of a free trade zone with the United States. Do you think that it might be in Mexico's interests to join a vast free trade zone covering the whole North American continent in the near or more distant future?

[Salinas] A common market with the United States is impossible because of the huge difference in our economic structures. On the other hand, I am very interested in a bilateral agreement to enable Mexican exporters to have precise regulations governing their exports to the U.S. market.

[Jacquet-Francillon] On 1 January 1993, approximately two thirds of the way through your term of office, a borderless Europe—the Europe of the Single Act—will become a reality. What effect do you expect this event to have?

[Salinas] It is absolutely astonishing to think that this continent, on which so many serious military and ideological conflicts have taken place, has succeeded in reaching a general agreement. I am waiting to see whether this Community will also involve the creation of a joint currency and a joint Army before I assess the agreement's real significance.

However, I think that this Community can open up numerous opportunities for Mexico, provided we find the means of placing our products on that big market.

But the strengthening of cultural relations interests me greatly. I intend to attach great importance to the cultural aspects, by creating a new promotion body inspired by Andre Malraux's experiment when he was the French culture minister.

[Jacquet-Francillon] What do you think of the state of political, economic, and cultural relations between France and Mexico?

[Salinas] I think that our political relations are satisfactory. Our cultural relations must be stepped up. I hope that in the commercial sphere we will succeed in intro-

ducing more of our products to the French market. In short, I feel that the time is right to strengthen relations between our two countries in a practical way.

[Jacquet-Francillon] Are you satisfied with the level of French investment in Mexico?

[Salinas] No, that level is too low. I would like French investors to have a much greater presence in Mexico. I know how much technological and scientific potential those investments could bring us, not to mention the opportunity they would provide for penetrating the Common Market. [passage omitted]

Various Demonstrations, Protests Cause Chaos

PA1612044788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0333 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Dec (EFE)—Mexico City was almost paralyzed today by demonstrations held by government officials, La Merced Market merchants, and a sit-in by the right-wing National Action Party [PAN]. Traffic was chaotic in this city of 12 million residents.

Sources reported that groups of demonstrators tried to enter the Congress building, shouting slogans against the ruling PRI. However, the demonstrators did not enter the legislative chamber.

Approximately 10,000 public employees, of a 2-million strong labor force, closed five of the city's major arteries. The employees held a demonstration at Constitution Square, outside the National Palace, which is the seat of government.

Employees from the secretariats of finance and public credit, programming and budget, energy, mines, and parastatal industry, and health and public assistance and from the Bank of Mexico demanded to be paid their 2-week bonus, as promised by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Financial authorities said the 2-week bonus had not been paid because of technical problems. However, authorities assured employees they will get paid at the end of the year or in early January.

The employees's protests, which began 1 week ago in Mexico City, have spread to other provincial capitals. The workers there are also demanding an additional 2-weeks pay before the end of the year.

At the same time, merchants affected by the fire that destroyed a large area of the traditional La Merced Market held a demonstration at the Venustiano Carranza precinct to demand that the authorities rebuild the market.

On Sunday, an explosion in a fireworks warehouse in the market caused a fire that claimed at least 72 lives. The fire destroyed the building where the market was located.

In addition, PAN supporters gathered around the independence column in Mexico City. Former PAN presidential candidate Manuel Clouthier began a hunger strike there today.

The political leader is demanding the enactment of a new election law. He said the current one has permitted "huge frauds" in the state elections of Jalisco, Guanajuato, and San Luis Potosi.

As he started the hunger strike, the former presidential candidate said he is not afraid of dying. He added he will end his protest when the Congress begins amending the Federal Electoral Code.

Editorial on Cuban View of 'Political Opening'

PA1512210188 Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Opening in Cuba"]

[Text] Latin America, Europe, and Asia have become political hotbeds. Changes have taken place in those areas that have occasionally cast doubt on previous plans or involved substantial reevaluation requiring broader participation and democratic solutions. Gorbachev made his amazing speech yesterday, after which Ronald Reagan admitted he had mistakenly judged the Soviet leader. Today, from heroic and controversial Cuba, comes another promising report.

Fidel Castro announced that the political opening will be carried out "the Cuban way" because Cuba's problems and reality are not identical to those of some of Europe's socialist regimes.

At the end of the 20th century, Cuba is an active laboratory where administrative systems are constantly being corrected, prices are corrected and adjusted to correspond with the production level, and greater emphasis is placed on labor activity.

Ideological debates have been encouraged and political problems are studied in-depth, although, as the leader of that nearby country admits, "It is difficult to open up to political pluralism when one considers that there are still counterrevolutionary and CIA organizations in Cuba."

There is in Cuba the foundation of a genuinely revolutionary transformation that reflects appreciation for the steps that have been taken. Castro knows the difficulties of isolation, especially if it is imposed by international consensus. That is what Cuba must overcome if its return to the OAS becomes a reality.

Political modernization ranges from a willingness to have an auspicious meeting with the pope to hopefully recognizing that Bush is more pragmatic than Reagan and that under the future U.S. President relations will improve.

These are signs of the times: a willingness to accept all trends, hear them out, and evaluate them; and the ability to discuss issues and rescue the spirit of solidarity.

In this endeavor Cuba will undoubtedly occupy an important position.

Guatemala

'Indirect' Rebel Role in Talks Proposed

PA1412012288 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 12 Dec 88 p 6

[Text] Msgr Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Commission [CNR], has totally dismissed the possibility of the URNG's direct participation in the national dialogue. However, he said that the rebels could participate in an "indirect" manner.

Msgr Quezada Toruno stressed that "Guatemala's armed struggle is one of the country's most critical problems; however, it is not the only problem and therefore it is necessary for all representative sectors to sit down at the negotiating table to find the mechanisms leading to solutions."

Regarding an "indirect" participation by the rebels, Msgr Quezada Toruno noted that any organization can present their views to the CNR through any suitable means.

In this case, the URNG's "indirect" participation in the national dialogue would be possible through the statements made by its General Command in paid advertisements in various media sources, as occurred when the commission's mediation was requested in order to free a soldier held by the guerrillas.

"We must admit that the armed struggle in our country is one of the most critical problems; however, there are other conflicts that must be discussed in the national dialogue, which is scheduled to begin in late January or in February next year," Msgr Quezada Toruno said.

Regarding a statement made by the National Association of Middle-Level Teachers, ANEEM, Msgr Quezada said that the evaluation of the country's reality is very positive, particularly concerning specific areas. For example, he said, it has been said that 80 percent of Guatemalan children suffer from malnutrition. This could be discussed at the national dialogue to find the mechanisms to eliminate or reduce that rate. Meanwhile, we are waiting to see what the next step will be. We may expect an "indirect" participation of the URNG in the national dialogue. We are advancing slowly but surely, Msgr Quezada Toruno concluded.

* President Cerezo on Budget, Corruption Charges

* Charges Called 'False'

32480039A Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] The accusations of government corruption or inefficiency "are absolutely false," declared President Vinicio Cerezo yesterday. He also stated that the budget of 3.6 billion quetzales "is still small."

The president referred to the national budget for 1989, which will soon be passed easily in Congress with the majority vote of the Christian Democratic delegation, and which has been severely criticized by the production sector and the trade unions.

Mr Cerezo said that "the budget is not too big," because it adds up to 3.6 billion instead of the 4.4 billion requested by the cabinet. The ministers were asked "to make readjustments."

The chief executive argued that his government has used the national budget "as a veritable instrument of Guatemalan development," and that for this reason Guatemalans are already seeing positive benefits, "such as more employment, less crime, and more production."

He also asserted that the government "has increased investment to pay the social debt, the foreign debt; it has brought down the deficit, stabilized the economy, and raised the number of taxes."

He stated that there are two ways to benefit the population: through the budget and through taxes, but it is up to the private sector to distribute the country's wealth.

In addition, he noted that those who think the budget is too big are those who have no needs, "because they probably have a plane or helicopter to take them everywhere." The people's needs must be met gradually, he emphasized.

Mr Cerezo compared the government to a family in which the father "cannot spend more money than he earns," so "he must obtain a pay raise."

The president commented that the 1989 budget is almost equal to that of 1985, because at that time the total was 900 million quetzales that were on a par with the dollar, while now the total of 3.6 billion is in quetzales that are worth 2.70 to the dollar. It seems like more, however, "because we are using the money more efficiently," he stated.

This government has built more housing units and schools than any other in the last 10 years, according to the president. He stated that the public works investment budget is low because most such products have been contracted out to private firms.

He indicated that these firms have had financing problems "because of the system or for legal reasons," and that he can prove that there is more than 85 percent efficiency in the execution of the projects.

With regard to the civil service, he noted that the increase in salaries, benefits, and retirement pay is an incentive for public employees to perform their jobs properly. He also argued that the salaries are leading to economic progress because they stimulate the economy.

When the budget grows, remarked the president, the amount distributed to the country's municipalities (8 percent) grows as well, whereas if it shrank, that benefit would also be reduced. The University of San Carlos would see its funding decline, too.

Mr Cerezo made the "fundamental assertion" that the budget "is the instrument of national development," because first there was the reordering of the economy so that the quetzal could be stabilized and the deficit reduced, and then came the reorganization to boost government revenues, and now the increase in the budget.

The president promised to begin "16 major highway projects," although he did not give a date. The projects will employ "99 percent of the country's production capacity, although you may not believe it."

He contended that there will be enough jobs "for the entire chamber of construction," masons, laborers, and equipment operators, to build the highways to Solola and Champerico, CA-9, and the exit to El Salvador (Don Justo), and to complete the road to Puerto Quetzal.

He said that the citizens "should not be worried" about the foreign debt, because "we are paying it the right way; more than 20 percent is being allocated to pay the debt."

The International Monetary Fund has "recognized" the government's economic policies, he added, and for this reason the government was able to obtain "a kind of surety" in order to obtain the money in loans and donations." [quotation marks as received]

The president ended his speech with the assertion that "everyone has recognized" that the government has the economy "on the right track," and that Guatemalans "are beginning to feel the direct benefits of a government that responds to the decisions of the people of Guatemala."

* Rebuttal of Remarks

32480039A Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 8 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 November—It is a shame that Vinicio Cerezo has lost the interest he used to show, when he was in the opposition or running for office, in keeping abreast of what was going on in the nation. His assertions that there is no problem of widespread corruption in the government, that his government's budget is small and adequate, and that it is administered efficiently, make him the principal actor in a tragi-comedy that he would like to title "Guatemala, a Nation of Suckers," stated candidate Juan Carlos Simons of the National Liberation Movement (MLN).

Although it is true that the Guatemalan population seems to have lost its fighting spirit, its courage in rebelling against injustice, and appears to be asleep and indifferent, the leader should never think it is so easy to pull the wool over their eyes and to continue making his campaign demagoguery his philosophy of government, he added.

How can President Cerezo try to erase with a single statement the corruption that has dominated the headlines in the 34-month history of his administration? he asked. Let us recall the fertilizer deals, the coffee smuggling by government officials, the hospital equipment, the contracts awarded for highways, the foreign donations that were siphoned off, the police equipment that never existed, the French protocol and DICABI [not further identified], the National Youth Institute (INAJU), the complaints filed against the National Institute of Electrification (INDE) and the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INTA), etc., etc. And then add to those the cases that have been publicized regarding drug trafficking, kidnaping, and murder, in which high-ranking officials and personal friends of Cerezo Arevalo have been involved.

With respect to the budget and its size, and the efficiency with which it is administered, it would be a good idea for the one who calls himself president of the republic to be informed of some minimal facts so that he would not make a national fool of himself.

Does the president know that to date not even a third of the projected investment budget has been executed, and that the operations budget (civil service, political appointees, etc.) has already exceeded 100 percent of what was slated for this year?

Did he also know that last year "transfers" were made from the investment budget to the operations budget in the amount of 135.8 million quetzales, of which 20 million quetzales went to cover the public debt? added Simons.

Did Mr Cerezo know that his government has not generated a single kilowatt of electricity, that it has built no schools, hospitals, or new highways?

Is Don Vinicio aware that last year 1.2 million quetzales were allocated for political appointees, and that "things got a little out of hand," with spending of 12.3 million on that account?

Does he know that the "projected" deficit for 1989 amounts to 988 million quetzales in terms of the budget deficit, plus 290 million in transfers abroad (donations), which the Finance Ministry cleverly classified as "current" revenues?

If this is the "instrument of development" that Cerezo mentioned in his demagogic and ingenuous speech, why doesn't he dare ask the people their opinion on the 1989 spending budget? No, President Cerezo, you must be a little more concerned about your people, and in the little

time you have left in office, you should try to make serious decisions that take into account the real plight of the majority of Guatemalans, rather than the way you live, he concluded.

* Reportage on Debate, Approval of 1989 Budget

* Budget Widely Debated

32480039C Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 18 Nov 88 p 3

[Text] The Congress of the Republic yesterday passed on the third reading the budget for fiscal year 1989, after a wide-ranging debate in which opposition deputies questioned certain items. These items were evaluated and defended by the members of the majority.

The political opposition thus had one more opportunity to express its opinions on the matter. It focused not on the overall amount of the budget but on the allocations for public health, education, and security services.

Dr Hipolito Dardon, member of the Congressional Public Health Committee, gave a lengthy speech in which he painted a picture of the health situation in Guatemala. He mentioned the drastic cutbacks in the draft budget prepared by the Public Finance Ministry.

He concluded his speech with an appeal for more funding for public health in order to meet the myriad needs of the population.

Centrist Deputy Hector Luna Troccoli read a document that had been sent by the health minister, Dr Carlos Gehlert Mata, in which he cited the need to allocate more money to that ministry in the budget in order to contribute to the people's health.

The opposition deputy also praised the "democratic spirit of the Executive Committee in being open minded and allowing long speeches."

But Deputy Elian Dario Acuna, member of the Congressional Finance Committee, responded to several speakers by indicating that it is not true that health and education have been neglected in the draft budget. He cited statistics to prove that the Public Health ministry now receives the second-highest allocation of resources, which has not been the case in years.

Deputy Jose Fernando Lobo Dubon, chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the deputies had had 120 days to analyze, study, and investigate the proposed budget. Prolonging the discussion now, he said, would be a mere delay tactic.

* Regional Nature Noted

32480039G Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] Sources at the Public Finance Ministry yesterday expressed satisfaction that the bill on the General Budget of Revenues and Spending of the Nation has been passed, because the amendments made to it are good.

The budget for the next fiscal year has a significant new feature: regionalization, deconcentration, and administrative decentralization, in accordance with the precepts of the Political Constitution of Guatemala, ministry sources said.

This regional approach to the budget will make considerable changes in the structure that had prevailed since 1 July 1964. These changes involve a technical effort by the various offices, agencies, and institutions that comprise the public sector, the sources explained.

The administrative reform will be strengthened through a budgetary treatment in which resources are allotted to each institution in the public sector, but with a regional identification. This initial effort will be coordinated with actions that the government has planned to deal with the myriad problems of Guatemalan society, they said.

Although there are not enough funds available to meet the growing needs of the population, the budget tries to address all the situations that require immediate solutions by the state, especially those in priority sectors. The fundamental objective is to achieve economic, political, and social stability in the country, according to the sources.

The general policy on public spending, they noted, entails the rationalization of operational expenditures, without neglecting the improvement and expansion of the most important basic services that are provided to the population, the obligation to pay the public debt, and increased attention to investment.

By legislative decree, the country was divided into eight development regions, including the metropolitan region and the Peten as the areas requiring the most attention.

* Opinion Poll Unfavorable to Cerezo Published

32480039B Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 20 Oct 88 p 4

[Text] President Cerezo favors his friends, relatives, and Christian Democrats; he is creating divisiveness between rich and poor; he laughs mockingly; and he cares more about having fun than about fulfilling his promises, according to Guatemalans throughout the country who responded to an opinion survey conducted by the Center for Political Studies (CEDEP).

This survey reveals that 60 percent of Guatemalans feel that a coup d'etat would not be good for the country, while 20 percent favor a coup. In response to another question, 40 percent said that there are reasons that might justify a coup attempt.

In addition, 80 percent of those polled were against the closing of Aqui el Mundo and Siete Dias, and 65 percent expressed disagreement with the measure taking TV Channel 3 off the air.

The mass media rank second among the institutions for which Guatemalans feel some affinity, with 56 percent. They also rank lowest among the institutions that Guatemalans reject, with just 3 percent.

The results of this survey were released yesterday by CEDEP officials. This entity commissioned the firm Aragon y Asociados to conduct the poll, which was carried out in June and July of this year.

In general, the poll indicates that Guatemalans are skeptical and pessimistic about the future of Guatemala and Central America in the economic, political, social, and moral spheres.

The three institutions with which the respondents identify most closely are the Catholic Church (64 percent), the mass media (56 percent), and the universities (51 percent). These institutions are also at the bottom of the list of rejected institutions: mass media, 3 percent; Catholic Church and universities, 6 percent.

The individuals in the poll expressed the greatest disapproval of: the guerrillas, 61 percent; repressive groups, 53 percent; politicians, 33 percent; and Congress and the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations (CACIF), 26 percent.

Of the people who mentioned affinity for institutions, the reasons given for the affinity were the following: trade unions, 64 percent because "they fight for the working class"; the Army, 58 percent because "it protects the citizenry"; and the mass media, 49 percent because "they provide information and guidance."

Of those who expressed a lack of affinity for institutions, the reasons cited were: Congress, 33 percent because "they don't do anything"; the CEDEP, 29 percent because "it is not known"; politicians, 26 percent because "they don't keep their promises"; and the mass media, 25 percent because "no one believes what they say."

Unfavorable Image for Cerezo

In the poll, 13 questions were asked about the Guatemalan president, who received unfavorable responses on 11 of them. The scores ranged from 32 to 60 percent, while the favorable responses ranged from 27 to 40 percent.

Question	True (%)	False (%)	Don't Know (%)
Favors friends, relatives, and DC members	60*	9	29
Is creating divisiveness between rich and poor	51*	23	23
Is keeping his promises	23	50*	15
Laughs mockingly	47*	22	2
Cares more about having fun than governing	44*	26	28
Is the fairest president Guatemala has had	33	43*	21
Chose his team well	27	42*	28
Has a special interest in the poor	40	40	18
Is the most valuable man in the government	40*	36	22
Permits corruption	40*	30	28
Is leading the country toward full democracy	33	38*	3
Wants to remain in power indefinitely	36*	28	33
Is straightforward with the press	32	26	39

Note: * = highest figure

On the positive side, President Cerezo has an image as the fairest president Guatemala has had (43 percent) [as published], has an interest in the poor (40 percent), is the most valuable man in the government (40 percent), and is leading the country toward full democracy (38 percent) [as published].

The study indicates that the president's overall image is negative, but there is a relatively large group of people who are loyal to the president and satisfied with his work.

President Cerezo does better than his political party and his aides, including the Cabinet, in public opinion. The public feels that he has not met the expectations that were raised when he took office.

Guatemala's Future

Those surveyed show little optimism about the present and the future. Seventy-five percent believe that in 1988 Central America is worse off than in 1987, 55 percent

predict that 1989 will be even worse, and just 10 percent believe the situation is and will be better.

With regard to Guatemala, 72 percent feel that the future will be worse, and only 13 percent see the immediate future with optimism. Those who have a positive view of the future believe that it is due to the meetings of the presidents (32 percent).

The majority of those who feel the present is worse blame the situation on economic aspects (64 percent); 8 percent cite the wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua and with the guerrillas in Guatemala, while 6 percent categorically responded that the government's performance is to blame.

Eighty-two percent of those interviewed mentioned that the problems that bother them are economic, including the high cost of living, inflation, shortages, and to a lesser extent, unemployment, poverty and hunger, and low wages.

The poll indicates that just 3 percent mentioned social violence, such as crime, attacks, and robberies, and only 1 percent cited political violence.

Half of those interviewed responded that they do not know who could improve the country's economy; 33 percent feel that society as a whole should do so, and a mere 10 percent believe the government can do something.

The government, according to 44 percent of the respondents, cannot solve political problems, while 34 percent believe it is incapable of solving social problems as well.

Institutions

The reasons given by Guatemalans for their affinity or lack of affinity with national institutions are the following:

Institution	(%)	Much Affinity	(%)	No Affinity
Trade unions	64	Fight for workers' rights	16	Defend only the workers
Army	58	Protects the citizenry	16	Is repressive
Mass media	49	Provide information and guidance	25	No one believes what they say
Judiciary	34	Enforces the law	18	Enforces the law badly
Private sector	30	Provides jobs	16	Exploits the people
Congress	26	Ensures the well being of the people	33	Does nothing
CACIF	26	Tries to help the people	15	Is to blame for the economic problem
Universities	22	Provides opportunity for advancement	15	Only strikes
CEDEP	19	Gives people an opportunity to find out about politics	29	Is not known
Politicians	13	Help the people advance	26	Don't keep their promises
Government	12	Has helped considerably	16	High cost of living

The respondents gave the following answers concerning their affinity for national institutions:

Private, Religious, and Educational	Much Affinity	No Affinity
Catholic Church	64	6
Mass media	56	3
Universities	51	6
Protestant Church	31	15
Chamber of Free Enterprise	22	12
Private sector	19	19
CACIF	15	26
Association of Business Managers	13	19
CEDEP	12	17
Public and Political		
Human Rights Prosecutor	32	9
Development Councils	24	15
Army	24	15
National Police	19	19
Government	19	20

Private, Religious, and Educational	Much Affinity	No Affinity
Catholic Church	64	6
Presidency	18	17
Constitutionality Court	16	16
Treasury Guard	15	24
Judiciary	15	21
Congress	13	26
Politicians	9	33
Others		
Trade unions	26	14
Mutual Support Group	21	19
Repressive groups	6	53
Guerrillas	1	61

Coup Attempt

When asked about the 11 May coup attempt, between 32 and 24 percent of Guatemalans responded that it was a show put on by the government to measure their support, that it was a serious attempt by the military, that it was the work of the private sector, and that the Army wants to change the Christian Democratic government. Between 39 and 41 percent of those interviewed responded "don't know" to these questions.

Less than 15 percent of those polled believe that the Mario David Garcia (lawyer), Dr Mario Castejon, Gustavo Anzueto, (architect) and Danilo Roca and Nicolas Buonafina were involved in the coup attempt; 80 percent did not recall these names spontaneously, and between 63 and 75 percent had no opinion.

Credibility

Public figures in general enjoy little credibility in Guatemala, according to the results of the survey. President Cerezo has a 7-percent credibility rating, followed by Monsignor Prospero Penados del Barrio, with 5 percent, and journalists Mario David Garcia and Jorge Carpio, with 2 percent.

* Government's 'Respect for Human Rights' Noted

32480039E Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 18 Nov 88 p 2

[Text] Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo told the press that when he spoke with the president of the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, Mr Bonaccheli, he heard the highest praise for the Guatemalan Government. The human rights official absolved the government of any blame for the violent incidents that continue to occur in the country, declaring that there has been full respect for human rights in Guatemala since the Christian Democratic administration took office.

For this reason, the accusations by radical groups that the government of Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo covered up more than 670 extrajudicial executions in recent months are rejected. Alfonso Cabrera, foreign minister of the country, stated that this does not fit within the democratic process, and that if bloody incidents take place, they are due to common crime, not political crimes as in the recent past.

Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo indicated, upon returning from the Cuscatleca capital, that he had spoken with Hector Gross Spiell in that city. He told him that the Guatemalan Government fully respects human rights and that its actions in this regard are positive for the people and government of Guatemala.

Honduras

Legislature Decreases Cabinet Secretariats

PA1512224988 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Last night, to the surprise of all deputies present, Legislature President Carlos Orbin Montoya unexpectedly submitted a bill to decrease the number of state secretariats. Near the end of the legislative session the president of the legislature submitted the following bill: to amend Article 246 of the national Constitution, making it read as follows:

Article 246: There will be 11 state secretariats for the general administration of the country, namely: government and justice; foreign affairs; economy; finance and public credit; industry, commerce, and tourism; national defense and public security; labor and social welfare; health and social assistance; education, culture, youth, and sports; communications, public works, and transportation; and natural resources, planning, coordination and budget.

The bill was scheduled for two debates but was approved in the first debate. This bill must be ratified by the legislature next year to make it law, according to the pertinent constitutional provision.

National Congress Approves 1989 Budget

PA1512140888 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The National Congress last night hurriedly approved the country's most important document: the 1989 fiscal year budget, which amounts to 2.171 billion lempiras. Expenditures for 1989 will increase 156 million lempiras over the 1988 budget. Before discussing the budget, a law was approved authorizing a 164.2-million-lempiras bond issue to cover the 1987 fiscal year deficit.

Nicaragua

H. Ortega, Tinoco Hold News Conference 15 Dec

PA1512201188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1613 GMT 15 Dec 88

[News conference by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega and Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco at the Presidential Press and Information Directorate in Managua—live]

[Text] [Ortega] [Words indistinct] and foreign press accredited in Nicaragua. I wanted to hold this meeting with you today to make a general assessment of the war and the negotiations process [words indistinct] in Sapoa. I will make a general evaluation, and after that I will answer all your questions.

The most important element in the overall assessment of the war our country and people are still suffering—the very first aspect that must be discussed—is the U.S. Administration's policy of actively and strongly backing the mercenary aggression—the counterrevolutionary forces. This objective—as is increasingly obvious—has failed. This fact is one of the leading aspects of my general assessment. The mercenary plan's failure, their refusal to admit this failure, the current U.S. Administration's useless effort to save the plan, and its effort to keep the mercenaries as the spearhead of the large-scale U.S. plan to destroy the Sandinist revolution have all failed. The U.S. Administration's effort to isolate Nicaragua from the world and from the various political forces and governments of the international community, especially in Latin America, has failed. The U.S. effort to make governments in the region adhere to Ronald Reagan's warmongering policies has also failed.

Despite the mercenary plan's obvious failure, despite the strategic defeat our people have inflicted on the mercenary forces, the danger of a military aggression against our country continues. In the meantime, there is no serious indication that the Reagan administration wants to bequeath to the new U.S. Administration a framework for beginning negotiations leading to a firm and serious agreement between the Nicaraguan Government and the United States.

This is why, in response to the mercenary plan's obvious defeat, the United States has maintained its military presence in the region, and it has pursued plans for systematic provocations. The United States is attempting to involve the Honduran Army in the conflict, aiming to gradually create conditions to replace the mercenary spearhead by creating a conflict between the Honduran Army and the Nicaraguan Government. In other words, the United States would gradually replace the mercenary spearhead with the Honduran-Nicaraguan conflict, which would only heighten the problems that already exist between the Nicaraguan and Honduran Governments.

This continuous, systematic U.S. presence can be supported by the following facts: Throughout 1988 the United States, in its air reconnaissance strategy against Nicaragua, conducted more than 189 flights. This is a 22-percent increase over 1987, when there were 147 of these flights. It is noteworthy that this year radioelectronic reconnaissance aircraft of the EC-130 type have been used to a great extent as a result of the U.S. Air Force's decision to permanently base a fleet of EC-130 aircraft at Howard Air Force Base as of January 1988. This provided a greater capability and allowed a longer reconnaissance period. This kind of activity was previously carried out from airbases in the United States.

We must note that most of these strategic reconnaissance flights this year by the United States against Nicaragua were after the Sapoa agreements. The Sapoa agreements were signed on 16 March. Since that time, from April to 8 December, there have been 140 of these strategic reconnaissance flights against Nicaragua. Instead of contributing to the complex, difficult task of negotiating with the counterrevolutionary forces since Sapoa, the United States increased activities of this nature. In sum, between 1 January 1981 and 10 December 1988, which is more or less the period of the war of unjust aggression suffered by Nicaragua, there have been 1,968 strategic reconnaissance flights against our territory by the United States. The United States has also continued tactical air reconnaissance flights from Honduran territory, registering a 60-percent increase this year over 1987. There have been approximately 200 flights this year. This increase was related to the acquisition of various new air capabilities, such as the OV-10 Bronco, RU-21, and F-5 Tiger. These capabilities, together with six OV-1 Mohawks, eight RU-21's, and three R4E-40 drones, which were formerly assigned to the air component of the Bravo Task Force based in Honduras, directed their principal efforts at obtaining tactical information on our radio circuits, basically ultra shortwave. They were especially seeking to keep updates of the military theaters of operation of the 1st, 2d, 6th, and 7th military regions of our country by means similar to those used against revolutionary activities in El Salvador. Of these 200 U.S. tactical flights against Nicaragua from Honduran territory, 147 were flown after the Sapoa accord was signed. This also indicates that at no time has the United States supported or contributed to developing the search for peace through Sapoa.

Here is a rundown of U.S. naval operations and control of maritime navigation against Nicaragua this year off the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts. As in 1987, there was a deployment of up to 18 rotational units—generally for 2 months each—during the whole period; and the almost permanent presence of the (?ARL-24 Sting) special exploration vessel. Similarly, this year the U.S. Navy used for support of this activity surface units, some of which were outfitted with exploration equipment—mainly frigates, tank-landing craft, and medium-range Coast Guard vessels. This activity and presence indicates uninterrupted control, mainly over the Gulf of Fonseca area.

Something else that reflects the U.S. presence in the area against Nicaragua are the maneuvers and exercises. During 1988, the U.S. Armed Forces carried out up to nine military exercises in the Central American region, which entailed the training of more than 9,000 troops, mainly originating from U.S. units designated for the launching of a direct attack against Nicaragua. I am referring to the 7th Airborne Light Infantry Division and others.

It is worth noting that the Golden Pheasant-88 exercise carried out in Honduras at the beginning of March involved the deployment of up to one light infrantry brigade as part of the psychological and physical preparation plans for military personnel in areas similar to the Niacarguan operations theater. These exercises were part of the U.S. Armed Forces training and mobilization

plans for emergency deployment of the [words indistinct] type that the North Americans have been carrying out in Honduras since 1986.

We also wish to stress the systematic training of U.S. National Guard, Reserve, and Corps of Engineers personnel, which means the preparation of a military infrastructure in the Central American countries to support U.S. destabilizing activities against the Nicaraguan Government.

At the same time, the United States carried out up to four big naval exercises in the Caribbean, involving more than 60,000 troops in huge U.S. and NATO naval groups. This served as additional U.S. pressure against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Some unusual Southern Command activities were the arrival and stationing at Howard Air Force Base of four F-111 medium-range strategic bombers.

U.S. exercises in Central America: The surface, the aerial-surface exercises—carried out mostly in the Francisco Morazan Department in Honduras; some in the western departments, like Olancho and other places, even in departments that border on Nicaragua—were mostly carried out after the signing of the Sapoa accord on 23 March. This is one more example of the U.S. boycott of the negotiating process that began in March 1988.

On the topic of the U.S. military presence in the area, it peaked during the 2d half of March, when under the cover of—or simultaneous to—the Golden Pheasant exercise, which I have already mentioned, there were up to 3,800 troops of the 82d Airborne Division in the area. In conjunction with this, together with the U.S. Task Force Bravo in Honduras, there was an increase of up to 5,000 troops, which meant the most dangerous presence of U.S. personnel and equipment to support the critical situation that the mercenary forces were facing following the EPS' extensive offensive at that time, after Operation Danto.

These U.S. activities proved that in the face of any dangerous situation involving the Honduran Army and/or (?contra) forces, the United States would exert military pressure against any EPS response. It is also important to note that each time new U.S. forces arrived in Honduras, the United States used this opportunity to cover up sending logistical and materiel support to mercenary forces already publicly known to be residing in this neighboring country of Honduras.

We believe that very soon—in the next few weeks or months, most probably January—some decisive things will happen in Honduras. Three military maneuvers—Big Pine-89, Terencio Sierra-89, and Lempira-89—have been scheduled for that period. The maneuvers, except for the Terencio Sierra-89 maneuvers, will be held in areas along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border. These maneuvers could be used by the United States to maintain tension in the area. We cannot rule out the possibility of an escalation of the terrorist plans of the Nicaraguan Resistance stationed in Honduran territory.

Speaking of the U.S. presence in the region, these maneuvers to be held in early January could serve to create tension and unleash problems in the region. To date, there are 100,970 U.S. soldiers in the area—Army, Air Force, Marines, Special Forces, National Guard, advisors, civic action, and others. In addition to the U.S. military presence, which supports mercenary activity against Nicaragua, there have been more than 75 harassment and provocation actions by Honduran soldiers stationed in El Paraiso and Choluteca Departments. These Honduran departments border with Chinandega and Nueva Segovia in Nicaragua. Most of these harassment and provocation actions were carried out after the Sapoa agreement was signed—after March 1988. The greatest number of Honduran harassments and provocations took place in October, when there were 20 such actions.

We are now going to compare the counterrevolutionary activities in 1987 and 1988. I am going to do this to show you that despite the efforts of the U.S. Administration and the most recalcitrant and warmongering segments of the mercenary leadership, the Sapoa agreements have resulted in important benefits for the people, who repudiate war and seek peace. If we look at this graph, we will clearly see how in 1987 mercenary activities were increasing, whereas in 1988 they have dropped.

We must point out, however, that following the signing of the Sapoa agreements—during the first few months after the signing of the agreements—efforts were made by some counterrevolutionary leaders and units to seek a negotiated solution to the problem. This is why mercenary activities dropped after March 1988. Despite Enrique Bermudez' pressures to keep the Sapoa agreements from being signed or implemented, we see that efforts were made within Nicaragua to respect the agreement to suspend all offensive military operations. But in June and July, a change began to take place. The mercenary leadership began to follow the Bermudez faction's ideas—ideas that are in accordance with the CIA and Reagan administration's plans—and began to disregard the Sapoa agreements and the agreement suspending all offensive military operations.

That is why counterrevolutionary activities markedly increased in the June-July period, in open violation of the cessation of offensive military operations. Since then there has been a slight decrease in these activities, not so much because the counterrevolutionary forces have curtailed these military engagements, but rather because of their inability to carry out more activities and full-scale attacks. Counterrevolutionary military activities have run up against the measures taken by our forces to counteract these violations. Our armed forces continue to maintain and strengthen these measures despite the

indiscriminate and desperate attacks against the productive sectors, our civilian population, and economic objectives. That is the current situation.

Since the Sapoa agreements were signed, we have detected—in clear violation of these agremeents—hundreds of activities carried out by the mercenary forces. In the pamphlet we will be distributing to you at the end of this news conference, you will find a detailed list of these violations. In this pamphlet entitled "Actions for Peace by the Nicaraguan Government," a copy of which you will be receiving, we have listed all the diplomatic actions we have conducted during the past months as well as all the violations by the contras. That is what this comparative chart shows.

However, what we wanted to point out is that despite everything and despite those who have opposed peace, the Sapoa agreements have been of some benefit, particularly for our peasant population, who have been affected the most by this unjust war of aggression against our people.

Continuing with this analysis, we have here a comparative table of war casualties in 1987 and 1988. In 1987 we inflicted a total of 6,134 casualties—5,339 killed—on the contras. In 1988 the mercenary forces have sustained 2,226 casualties, which is evidently considerably fewer than the previous year.

Meanwhile, 1,613 EPS troops were killed in 1987 in various clashes with the mercenary forces. So far this year we have registered 611 dead, which also reflects how the Sapoa negotiating process has sensibly reduced the number of casualties among our people. In other words, last year we sustained over 1,000 more casualties than we have sustained this year, in terms of dead soldiers.

However, the situation has been somewhat different among the civilian population. In 1987 the number of civilian victims—dead, wounded, and kidnapped—was 1,675. The total so far this year is 1,748. The chart shows a different figure, because it does not include wounded and kidnapping victims, only the dead. Fewer civilians were killed in 1987 than have been killed thus far this year. That is what the chart shows. However, I am giving you a broader picture by including the number of wounded and kidnapped. In other words, 236 civilians have been killed in 1988; however, the number of civilian victims in 1988 is larger due to the fact that 1,256 civilians have been kidnapped. The number of kidnapped civilians in 1987 was 912. The reason for this difference is that during the past few months, the sector headed by Bermudez—who wants to do away with the Sapoa agreements and has issued instructions that the cease-fire not be respected—has kidnapped more civilians in an attempt to maintain a certain number of forces to carry out its immediate plans for the next few months against our country from Honduras.

We must also point out that in addition to the casualties shown in this chart, more than 600 contras have laid down their weapons this year in the North Atlantic as a result of a successful negotiating process between the Yatama forces and our government. In addition, several hundred individuals linked to direct or indirect activities with the mercenary forces have also deserted the contras in various parts of the country.

Another chart in the pamphlet you are going to receive shows the number of contra violations of the cease-fire between the time the Sapoa agreements were signed and 30 November.

The total number of casualties resulting from cease-fire violations by the contras is 677. Of these, 70 were EPS dead, 73 wounded, and 7 missing. When we refer to the Army we also add Interior Ministry [MININT] casualties, bringing the number of EPS and MININT comrades killed in violation of the agreements by the counterrevolutionary forces to 150. This is in addition to the 517 civilian victims, of whom 69 were killed, 66 wounded, and 372 kidnapped.

Other consequences of the mercenaries' violations of the Sapoa agreements and the cease-fire—which our government has been extending month-by-month—include economic damage as follows: destruction of 14 electricity pylons, damage to one bridge, destruction of 20 military trucks, destruction of 21 civilian vehicles, attacks on 5 river boats, looting of a medical post, pillaging of a grain store, attacks on 9 peasant settlements, and attacks on 3 peasant communities. The total is 75 economic and military objectives—military vehicles—attacked in flagrant violation of commitments.

Regarding Honduras, I have already pointed out that during these last few months—in clear complicity with the activities of the mercenary forces—our border guard posts have been constantly harassed by Honduran forces. Among the flagrant violations of the agreements pointed out in the booklet we are going to distribute are 12 violations during the passage of Hurricane Joan, which caused a catastrophe on the Atlantic coast area and [words indistinct]. During that period, the people joined the revolutionary government to face this natural disaster. The EPS defense system was severely tested at that time. This allowed the EPS to coordinate in the best possible way the efforts made by the country—by the government—to deal with the crisis caused by the hurricane. During that period there were 12 violations of the cease-fire. One that stands out was the ambush laid by 20 counterrevolutionaries on a Red Cross ambulance northwest of Nueva Guinea, in Southern Zelaya Department, which was helping with the relief effort at that critical time.

We also want to note that in the last few months and particularly in November, the United States and the most obstinate members of the mercenary elite have been making efforts to bequeath the new U.S. Administration a violent and tense situation. The [United States]

resumed their supply flights to the mercenary forces. Those flights come from El Salvador. They come by a route that has been called the Hasenfus route, which you all know. In November we counted 10 flights, which our troops confirmed. Those flights arrived in various parts of Military Regions 5 and 6 and parachuted supplies for the mercenary forces at night, including military equipment. The flights came from El Salvador.

As a result of the activity conducted in 1988 and in view of the mercenary forces' attacks after the signing of the Sapoa agreements, we have mantained... [changes thought] because we have strictly fulfilled the agreements we signed. We have especially fulfilled the cease-fire declaration. Before the signing of Sapoa, in other words, between January and the Ganso operations... [changes thought].

What do these attacks mean? They have been the most important successes of this year, the Ganso operation, in March, and Sapoa. The Ganso military operation was the culmination of a series of EPS military offensives between late 1987 and March 1988 which would have led to the collapse of the mercenary forces had it not been for the virtual intervention of U.S. troops to save them. Those that were in their bases in border territory where the Ganso operation was carried out by our Army were saved from being totally wiped out. If the United States had not risked sparking a war in Central America—and extending the conflict in the region by its intervention—it would have been militarily possible for us to eliminate completely the majority of the mercenary forces during the Ganso operation.

Then, as the result of the Ganso operation activities until March 1988—before the cease-fire agreement—and as the result of our response to contra attacks after the Sapoa meetings, this year we have captured from the enemy 1,095 rifles of various kinds and 109 M-79, RPG-7, and LAW grenade launchers. A total of 109 of these two [as heard] types of weapons were seized. We have also managed to take from the enemy three U.S.-made portable anti-air flechettes. Included among the most important weapons taken from the mercenary forces are 3,723 pounds of (?C-3 and C-4) plastic explosives. These are powerful explosives. The C-4 plastic explosive is twice as powerful as TNT, for example. This amount is enough to blow up countless major objectives. So far, we have captured 186 antipersonnel and antitank mines, which the contras use to carry out their criminal acts against civilians and private vehicles. Moreover, 7 mortars and 43 communications radios were seized. These are among the war materiel seized in combat with the EPS. State Security units directly participated in these operations, following specific plans by the MININT or in joint operations with the EPS. We have taken all these weapons from the mercenary forces.

Now, we are going... [changes thought]. The costs I have mentioned are related to all matters involving military operations and the U.S. presence. We are briefly going to mention one important aspect that was carried out despite our country's material and economic difficulties. This aspect reflects a high, patriotic, and revolutionary spirit and support for the revolutionary process, especially by the young. The balance of the Patriotic Military Service [SMP] this year—particularly the balance of the patriotic nationwide operation carried out recently—is as follows: This year we made major strides in consolidating this work. And so, 22,300 young men joined the military units as new recruits, enabling us to reinforce our units' combat readiness. As part of the national patriotic campaign, 29,800 young men born in 1961 enrolled in the military registry. This figure is 36 percent higher than the enrollment of previous years. In addition, the status of 28,000 young men born from 1964 to 1970 was brought up to date. This means the SMP registration card for young men born from 1964 to 1970 was changed. This year, 15,156 young men who had served their active military duty were discharged. These men constitute an objective, clear, and obvious sign of the stability that has been achieved in the SMP in recent years, based on our country's law.

So, 22,300 young persons entered the armed forces, and we mobilized 15,156. We have thus been able to stabilize our troop replacement to confront the present situation [word indistinct] imposed by war. We also want to note that we have mobilized 155,366 reservists to fulfill defense and training duties in all the military regions. More than 21 percent of these reservists were mobilized from the Pacific area—Leon, Chinandega, Managua, Granada, Masaya, [word indistinct], Rivas—to the war areas to protect the bridges, roads, peasant communities, and the civilian population. The civilian sector is the one—as you have seen in our comparative chart—that has been systematically and indiscriminatedly attacked by the mercenary forces. The reserve troop mobilization also indicates that we have managed to stabilize the number of reserve troops. The reservists are, by law, mobilized to receive their assignments and training and, if needed, to support the country's civilian and economic goals. This is an important point that needs to be stressed.

Regarding the Sapoa negotiating process, we can point out that the verification commission headed by His Excellency [Joao] Baena Soares and Cardinal [Miguel] Obando y Bravo continues to function despite all the efforts and difficulties. It is true that this verification commisison has not been able to fulfill its missions because of the obstacles placed in the way by the top command of the mercenary forces, but the commission continues to exist. The revolutionary government is striving to achieve the peace that we all desire through the commission and through other mechanisms that can be developed in the future.

It is important to point out the minimum agreement that was reached before the talks with the counterrevolutionaries were interrupted in June. This minimum agreement deals with the cessation of offensive military operations. Although Enrique Bermudez recently

instructed the mercenary forces to disregard this cease-fire, the truth is that fewer military clashes have taken place because of the lack of operational capability of the mercenary forces and because the government has indeed respected this agreement. The peasants have profited from this because less blood is being shed, and it is becoming a little more possible to confront the country's necessary economic tasks.

It is important to mention that, despite Bermudez' and the CIA's efforts to have this agreement disregarded, the frequency of clashes has declined because the mercenaries have proved to be incapable of carrying out large-scale operations. Some rebels disagree with Bermudez, and the Nicaraguan Government has firmly complied with this agreement. Therefore, the suffering of the peasant population, which has borne the brunt of the sacrifice and bloodletting, has been markedly diminished.

Hurrican Joan, which seriously affected the peasants of the 5th Region and other areas of the Atlantic coast, in addition to Bluefields, also made it difficult for the contras—Bermudez' warmongering people—to carry out large-scale operations. The contras have been rejected by the peasant population, which has been seriously affected both socially and economically by the hurricane. The government's reconstruction plans and the Army's presence have provided the peasants with the necessary encouragement to cope with their basic problems.

At a future meeting I will announce some of the plans we are now drafting, with the help of several government offices, especially the MIDINRA [Ministry of Agricultural-Livestock Development and Agrarian Reform], to help the most seriously affected peasants. The Army is giving its support.

Sapoa has served to bring the hope of peace to our people. The Nicaraguan Government will continue to do all it can to achieve this peace. At the same time, Sapoa has clearly shown us the moral and political collapse of the counterrevolutionary forces, especially the counterrevolutionary directorate. On the one hand we see a solid government, a strongly united Sandinist leadership, and a revolutionary people supporting the government and willing to help the government solve its problems; we see a people who, despite their serious economic and social difficulties, are looking for ways to solve their economic and social problems while searching for peace and repelling enemy attacks; we see a united people, a united government, a united revolutionary leadership. After Sapoa we have found a divided counterrevolution, a greedy contra directorate, a divided contra leadership—some living in the United States, others in Honduras, others in Costa Rica, and so on; a counterrevolution leadership involved in drug trafficking, like Octaviano Cesar—Alfredo Cesar's brother;

We have seen the rottenness of the mercenary plan and of the famous patriots. With whom did Reagan compare them? With the founding fathers of the United States. Only a scoundrel, a madman, an irresponsible person like Ronald Reagan would dare show such lack of respect for the U.S. people and their history by comparing those turncoats, mercenaries, killers, and drug traffickers like Octaviano Cesar and others to the U.S. founding fathers. Only a madman such as Reagan would make such a comparison.

We will discuss this further in the question-and-answer period. Comrade Victor Hugo [Tinoco, defense minister], who is here with us, will be able to expand on the problems surrounding Sapoa.

Finally, unless we can achieve an agreement with the United States through political negotiation, we will be forced to maintain the deployment levels we have reached this year. The increased attacks and provocations in the Honduran border area tell us we still face the threat of a Yankee invasion. Despite the imminence of the strategic defeat of the mercenary forces, we must maintain our national defense system's deployment levels. We cannot lower our guard. We must keep repelling the mercenary forces in their desperate attacks on economic and civilian targets, as we have done so far. We must reject any interventionist provocation or plot from the Yankee warmongering forces.

This patriotic spirit of deployment allows the Nicaraguan Government to guarantee that it will continue honoring its cease-fire. We express this conclusion to our people, who have never really lowered their guard and who have strengthened the national defense system with their great patriotic and revolutionary spirit. Our national defense system has allowed us, for example, to keep harvesting coffee despite the direct efforts of Enrique Bermudez and minor groups to obstruct the coffee harvest by attacking coffee brigade workers. This national defense system, in which thousands of citizens are involved, has allowed the road to Rama to continue functioning. This road joins Nicaragua's main cities to the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean, thus linking them to the sea routes to the Atlantic region, Europe, and other countries.

Our national defense system, which incorporates a properly organized population, guarantees that our country will continue to survive and function despite the aggression and the crisis.

Those are the points we wanted to cover and now we are ready to take questions.

[Unidentified speaker] We ask you to give your name and the news organization you represent, as we have several foreign reporters accredited in Nicaragua.

[Name indistinct] General Ortega, you have reported that supply flights resumed in November. What are the implications of this?

[Ortega] As we mentioned before, the United States, the CIA, is trying to create a situation of more intense conflict for newly elected U.S. President George Bush. Hence the supplying of the mercenary forces by air, when clearly they are already defeated. The contras are like a bankrupt business: However much you invest, you are wasting money. Despite all this, they have launched these flights from El Salvador, following Hasenfus' supply route. This even means overflying Costa Rican territory without permission—probably without permission—of the Costa Rican Government. All of this is aimed at alienating the Nicaraguan Government from the Costa Rican Government; to alienate even further the Nicaraguan Government from El Salvador's. All in all, the supply flights are an effort to further deteriorate the already somewhat conflictive, fragile relations that exist in Central America. The United States is not doing this because the Americans believe that by supplying the contras they will increase the contras' fighting ability and actions; the Americans know the mercenary forces are paralyzed.

[Name indistinct] [in progress] ...I have a question for Minister Humberto Ortega. How far has the defense budget been affected by Hurricane Joan? I specifically want to know if there has been a reduction in the defense budget, both because of the hurricane's destruction and also what you have mentioned—that military activities have declined this year. I have reports of a 20-percent reduction in the defense budget. Afterward, I want to ask Mr Tinoco a question. Thank you.

[Ortega] This is the result of the difficult economic situation that the war has inflicted upon our country. We are not saying the war has been the only reason for our difficult economic and material situation—this is not the case. We have to be clear that the war, this war of aggression—the blockade, the attack by mercenary forces, the attacks from several points against Nicaragua—that the war has been the main factor, during the last few years, in the country's deterioration. In addition, as I said earlier, in Nicaragua the government inherited from the previous system of U.S. domination—from the previous bourgeois, capitalist, and Somozist system—a country in ruins, a backward country. We did not inherit anything like a developed country. When the revolution triumphed, there was not even a good, high-quality private clinic for the bourgeoisie themselves. Here we had an indolent bourgeoisie and 150 years of Yankee imperialist domination that never once concerned itself with establishing, like in other countries, an infrastructure—social benefits and advantages arising from their presence. As the vulgar saying goes, all they did was squeeze the juice from us.

As a result of the backwardness, of the war, our government has been encouraging in the last few years—especially this year—each institution to save as much as it can without hurting its basic programs. One of the revolution's greatest strategic war successes has been that our Army has not become bogged down like the gringos in Vietnam, or Duarte's Army and government in El Salvador, with a yearly military increase to counter the insurgency—in this case the contras. Our Army's mobilization levels during the last 3 years have remained the same, we have not increased them. With these same levels, year to year, we have attained the military goals that you all know.

Nevertheless, in 1988—at the beginning of 1988—we decided to promote the deepening of the strategic defeat of the mercenary forces and to achieve other successes by trying our best to cut the cost of this war to help the country and government in facing the grave economic and social difficulties that we have. In this respect we, at home, adjusted some programs. We improved tactical, management, and organizational operations, which allowed us to save money at a critical time. For example, the Army managed to save fuel at a critical time. We also managed to cut consumption.

We also received large cuts in our budget during these months as our contribution to the economic policy that the government has implemented to try to control inflation. This process has also been applied to the MININT, and other institutions have been actively working with the government's Economic Planning Department in this effort. President Ortega has made weekly analyses regarding adjustments in the Defense and Interior Ministries to keep our expenses at a minimum to save and to help promote the country's plans.

However, the important thing has been that we have acted in accordance with this plan, and we have not suffered militarily in relation to our favorable position over the enemy. We have been the subject of serious analysis. We in the armed forces, the Army, and the MININT have been the ones who have most actively participated in these economic, material, and general analyses.

Following Hurricane Joan—I cannot say that is really the moment when the cuts began. Hurricane Joan further aggravated the already difficult process that we had faced in the first few months of the year. Hurricane Joan is really not the point that marked the crisis in our country, but rather it is what made it more evident. The crisis was caused by the war, the economic boycott, and the economic and material blockade against our country by the United States.

[Reporter] I wanted to ask Minister Tinoco another question. In regard to the Mi-25 helicopter, what is the situation now? Honduras has delayed returning it. There is even talk that it will be returned dismantled, in cases, and that this delay could endanger the presidential summit scheduled for 15 January. Thank you.

[Tinoco] As you know, the Nicaraguan Government sent the Honduran Government an official note asking for the return of the hijacked helicopter and the return of the hijacker, based on the norms of international law and the laws that regulate relations between states.

The only official Honduran note that exists is one saying that it is investigating and will proceed when the investigation is completed. As you know, President Ortega talked with President Azcona, who said he did not consider it a case of espionage; but apparently the investigation continues. The Nicaraguan Government has reiterated that Honduras should act according to international law, stop violating the law, and return the helicopter and its hijacker, in accordance with international norms.

How does this affect us? Evidently, I believe the Honduran Government must know that any action on its part that would violate international law obviously would not contribute to the climate we must all create for the upcoming foreign ministers meeting in Managua and for the summit. Thank you.

[Moderator] CNN?

[Question] Lucia Newman, CNN. General Ortega, I know you do not have a crystal ball, but could you please tell us how you see the coming year? Are you optimistic? What do you believe the future holds, especially in terms of the new U.S. President?

[Ortega] As military men who are—in my case, as head of the Army—comrades of the MININT, who are entrusted with the security of the state, we cannot make plans and decisions for the near future due to the uncertainty of political events and the subjective judgement of politicians and individuals who have power in other governments, in this case the United States.

In this regard, the revolution's most strategic accomplishment in the past 10 years—we are soon going to commemorate the 10th anniversary—has been to give the revolution and our people their organizational capacity for defense in view of the biggest danger this revolution could face, which is a U.S. invasion. I believe if we have accomplished something in this country it has been the capacity to defend the country. In other words, the accomplishments of the revolution in 10 years have not been through economic or social development because since the beginning the revolution has been the target of the U.S.plans.

[The revolution] was seen by the United States, by the Reagan warmongering sectors, as a phenomenom to be destroyed, so that it would not be consolidated. Those [warmongering] sectors were determined not to allow the presence of a revolution like ours, with the particular characteristics of this revolution, which we all know.

In this sense, the strategic accomplishment has not been just defeating the contras. If we had defeated the contras but at the same time the United States with its influence and its activities with the contras had not allowed us to design here a military doctrine and the integration of a professional Army like ours—a defense institution such as the EPS and the MININT—if during all these years we had not had here the possibility of organizing, providing weapons to Nicaraguan citizens at the various permanent levels of the reserves and the militias; in sum, if we had not designed a military defense strategy for the fatherland and for the national territory, if during all these years we had not received the support from various governments to get the basic supplies for the defense of this country, then the victory over the contras would have been a pyrrhic victory with no importance at all, because we would not have had the immediate capacity to defend ourselves—not just from a Yankee aggression but from an aggression by the Honduran Army.

In this regard, what we as military men, as the people in charge of this country's defense—in accordance with what the government and the president of the Republic approve every year—have to do in 1989 is to prepare our national defense system for combat. We should have our entire system ready, which would allow us to quickly deploy our troops, to have the means, the men,the resources, and particularly the Nicaraguan citizens—the hundreds of thousands of Nicaraguans, who are the ones who form a major part of this great people's Army—ready to fight. We actually have a professional Army, an Army of cadres. Although it is a small Army, thousands of citizens support it.

Now that we were talking about Spain—in Spain just for next year, some 300,000 citizens will join the military service, which does not mean Spain is going engage in a war with a neighboring nation. It simply means Spain has a system, as every country has, to structure its defense system.

I think that what we have to do is to make plans to repel any provocation from Honduras, because there are still sectors there that want a war with Nicaragua to facilitate a U.S. intervention. They [the Hondurans] continue to attack us every day, so we cannot ignore this situation. The state security must carry out all its plans to thwart and prevent the consolidation of an internal terrorist front in the major cities in this country. Consequently, there are things we have to do. Political negotiations would be even better, particularly negotiations with the United States, which the Nicaraguan Government has demanded so often, because this would permit a reduction of the tension and the war, and would [help to prevent] a further escalation of the war. There has been no rapproachement, however, with this government, and we cannot discuss anything with the new government because it has not yet been officially inaugurated.

The current U.S. Administration does not show any signs of wanting to negotiate. On the contrary, they are making all the necessary efforts to pave the way for the next administration that will allow them to destroy our process and our revolution. What we have to do is to be alert, to trust that peace will come, and to continue the diplomatic efforts we have been pursuing to achieve peace with dignity. We cannot say now: Well, Reagan is leaving. Reagan is gone so we can bury our rifles and

wait to see what the next U.S. President does. We cannot act in such a foolish and irresponsible manner. We must keep our defenses in good working order. We must continue responding to the contra attacks to destroy them once and for all. We will see what President-elect Bush says once he assumes the Presidency. In the meantime, whatever we say now is mere speculation. We hope that this time, with the beginning of a new U.S. Administration, reason will prevail. We hope that sound judgement, which we expected to prevail at the beginning of the Nicaraguan revolution and during Ronald Reagan's early years in office, will prevail now.

[Reporter] Could you tell us a little more about the flights from El Salvador? Are these flights [word indistinct]? What type of planes are used and what type of military equipment do they bring?

[Ortega] These flights are sponsored by the CIA, which provides the military support for the mercenary forces. The CIA is the means used by the current U.S. Administration. These flights come mainly from El Salvador and also from Honduras. Are these flights endorsed by the Salvadoran Government? I could not say. What we do know is that these flights come from El Salvador, because we have means such as radars, etcetera. We have various technical means to detect these flights, but what we lack is aircraft to intercept them. That is why the United States has been doing everything possible to prevent Nicaragua from obtaining planes that other countries have. Honduras has F-5's, right? Nicaragua has been prevented from obtaining aircraft for its own defense. We do not want planes to attack other countries. Spain, Mexico, or Venezuela—where Carlos Andres Perez just became president—or any other country, has planes. I believe there are F-16's in Venezuela. Venezuela has very modern planes. No one dictates to them, right? However, when Nicaragua wants to acquire aircraft, the gringos practically threaten us with direct intervention. [Words indistinct] We detect planes with our electronic radar system and through other means. We can tell where they come from. What we cannot do is intercept and down them.

We have downed some planes that have surveilled our country. For example, Hasenfus' plane. On that occasion, they were bringing weapons, especially ammunition. They are bringing ammunition and explosives more than rifles. The current contra strategy, which is based on indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets, require that kind of equipment. They need plastic explosives to place mines and to conduct indiscriminate attacks on roads, etceter. In the case of the USSR, we, as a government, have always maintained a relationship based on understanding. We have received from them what they as a government and within their means, can give us in loans, economic donations, defense aid, and in those fields that determine relations among governments. We have received more help from the USSR in the forms of loans and other aid than we ever received from any capitalist country, both during and after the Somoza era. We are not now receiving any such aid from capitalist countries. Not all socialist or capitalist countries have a flexible policy regarding its relations with a small country that is facing credit problems like the flexible policy we have experienced with the Soviet Union.

Within this framework, I am sure our government will continue to find the understanding and support it gets from all other governments when we request assistance for our country's urgent programs.

[Ilona] This is Ilona from Czechoslovakia. I want to ask Mr Tinoco if a new round of talks with the contras is anticipated. I have asked this question because, as far as I remember, a note was published late in November saying that [Alfredo] Cesar and his new coalition would make a new proposal to the Sandinist government early in December.

[Tinoco] I did not hear the question. Did you?

[Ortega] No, she was speaking very softly. I did not hear it either.

[Moderator] The lady asked whether the contras have proposed resuming negotiations.

[Tinoco] As you will see in the document that you will be given, the Nicaraguan Government has always been willing to keep the Sapoa negotiation process open. The government has talked to the verification commission constantly and consistently. We have not received any proposal from the contras. We have, however, been in constant touch with the verification commission. Nevertheless, a detail has involuntarily been omitted from this document. The Nicaraguan Government's latest action has been to present to the Sapoa verification commission—this is to say, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and OAS Secretary General Baena Soares—a proposal for an agreement between the government and the verification commission and several actions by the latter.

As you know, a law passed by the National Assembly forbids the use of any funds originating in any legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. One such piece of legislation from the U.S. Congress deals with funds approved for the Sapoa verification commission. The law passed by the Nicaraguan Assembly stipulates that an agreement must exist between the verification commission and the government if these funds for the verification commission are to be used.

To reaffirm the government's willingness to go ahead in the peace and negotiation effort, we have made a proposal—already in the hands of Baena Soares and Obando—for such an agreement between the government and the verification commission. This is our latest report in this regard.

[Moderator] Andres de la Paz.

[Unidentified speaker] He is not here.

[Moderator] Maria de Jesus Somarriba of WTN.

[Somarriba] General Ortega: Several leading U.S. media, such as THE NEW YORK TIMES, have been predicting the end of the war in Nicaragua. They present as proof the contras' situation, Honduras' new position, and the supposed intention of the new U.S. Government to change its policy in the area. What do you think about this?

[Ortega] The truth is Honduran troops keep attacking our border garrisons daily. In fact, the frequency of these attacks has increased in the past few weeks. Contras keep attacking the civilian population indiscriminately nearly every day. In addition, we have to deal with the U.S. presence, which I have already mentioned in my report. Strategic surveillance flights over our territory have continued. There are a large number of U.S. troops in Honduras. These troops have at their disposal very modern radar and air attack coordinating systems at the El Tigre area and the Gulf of Fonseca. Thousands of Americans are in the region.

Meanwhile, a single step leading to negotiations and an agreement, reasonable both for the United States and Nicaragua, has not been taken. The United States must understand that Nicaragua has the right to exist as a counterrevolutionary, independent, Latin Americanist project in favor of the poor. This is a wide-ranging project based on political pluralism and a broadly based economy. Our historic action will be in favor of the needy, the poor majority handed down to us from the past. In this country, there can be businessmen and well-to-do and even wealthy people. But the Yankee bourgeoisie left here a miserable, poor, and unfortunate people, whom they had exploited. The Yankees left this people without hospitals, devoid of culture, and sick in the ultimate sense of the word. But this revolution will work for the downtrodden ones.

In that regard, as long as the United States wants to change the character of this process by imposing a bunch of scoundrels on us—the capitalists, the Cesars—by bringing back the oligarchy and the bourgeoisie, and by shoving the people into the background to continue exploiting them and treating them unfairly; as long as Ronald Reagan and the warmongering imperialists pursue these intentions; as long as people cannot accept the feasability of a vast revolutionary project such as ours, a project that is not trying to use anyone and does not at all represent a danger to the United States...[changes thought]. The United States does not want to eliminate Nicaragua because it is communist or because the Sandinist government is a typically socialist government. It simply wants to eliminate our country because Nicaragua is even more dangerous for it, because Nicaragua is an example that it is possible to maintain independent positions in defiance of the traditional Yankee imperialist domination without being that type of government—without having that socialist leaning, for example.

The United States is afraid that the nations, the peoples, and the various segments in society will come together and that the bourgeois themselves will adopt independent attitudes toward unfair economic treatment, the foreign debt, etcetera. It fears this even more than a radical transformation which they can describe with such great adjectives as communist, radical, and leftist. Such descriptions have led them nowhere and have only served to further isolate Nicaragua from the world. These adjectives will not solve the problem. They really want to eliminate Nicaragua because of what it signifies as an example for the Latin American peoples.

As long as the United States tries to stifle the Latin American people's hope for freedom, which Nicaragua reflects, and as long as it persists in its militancy against the Sandinist revolution, we cannot believe what a newspaper says today. It may say something else tomorrow. We will have to actually wait to see what happens once the new U.S. Administration takes command.

[Moderator] We will now hear from the USSR's IZVESTIYA reporter.

[Reporter] I have two questions for your colleagues. My first question is for Comrade Cerna [Lenin Cerna, chief of the Nicaraguan State Security General Directorate]. You already have this question written down, but I will repeat it anyway: How has the Sapoa process affected subversive activity against Nicaragua? Have there been any changes?

My next question is for Comrade Tinoco: The U.S. media have recently said that U.S. President-elect Bush is less ideologically motivated against Nicaragua. What is your opinion on that?

[Cerna] Regarding the first question, I think it is important to note what we have always maintained: The enemy is in a process of strategic defeat. This issue was very well illustrated during the Sapoa talks. The Sapoa talks clearly showed that the mercenaries' activities of war, conspiracy, and intervention were dwindling and were facing a confrontation with the people's forces. The Sapoa talks, in fact, made the world realize that our victories in Sapoa were achieved not because of the Sapoa talks themselves, but because they were part of an entire process.

No doubt these forces, which are supported artificially by the United States, resented the process of negotiation in Sapoa, in which Nicaragua showed the world that it is not afraid to address any issue in order to achieve peace. The mercenary forces themselves and the framework of the U.S. strategy against Nicaragua—the framework of all the military and political pacts against Nicaragua—

began to change. This had dramatic effects. The principal contra leaders who participated in the first meeting at Sapoa never showed up again. We became aware of a division of such an extent that it practically led to a split in the heart of the counterrevolution. This even gave us problems. We first had one negotiating group, but we had to face a different negotiating group in the second meeting. Already it had been said that some of those participating in the first meeting were in prison.

This, of course, had a tremendous influence on the bases and various parts of the general plan of subversive activity against Nicaragua.

This means Sapoa has deep repercussions in terms of the contras' military structure and of the general conspiratorial structures. Sapoa's repercussions are so deep that the ensuing divisions, desertions, and the general drop in morale had some influence on the overall subversive activities in the interior of the country. That is why I say the impact was not only felt in the interior of the country but also in everything involving the counterrevolutionaries' internal organization and plans.

That is why we feel that the situation has really changed. There has been a change. We are not saying that Sapoa alone created this situation, however, its influence is noteworthy. We know of the splinter-groups abroad, where the leadership of the counterrevolution is. We know of the divisions that exist, and of all the infighting taking place. Almost inevitably this will have in impact on the contras' capacity to act.

At the same time, our forces have not lowered their guard for a second. We are as ready as ever to face any sort of action the contras may launch to prove they are alive. That is our opinion.

[Tinoco] Regarding your question, Gen Ortega has practically answered it at different points. That is, just as some say Bush may be more ideologically motivated, others in the United States say the opposite. Therefore, based on the seriousness of the Nicaraguan Government's position, it is difficult to go on assumptions. We must go on facts. Thus, the logical attitude of the Nicaraguan Government is to keep its defenses on alert and to maintain its commitment to negotiations. Its position is to wait for a rational attitude to prevail in the new U.S. Administration. Unfortunately, we did not see this attitude, and the previous [as heard] administration did not have this attitude.

[Moderator] Luis Cabrera.

[Cabrera] Gen Ortega, I disagree with what my colleague asked you. Approximately 1 week ago, Nicaraguan intelligence sources and Honduran diplomatic sources were expressing concern over an unsual military buildup along the Honduran - Nicaraguan border. Honduran peasants are being organized and armed in that area of Honduras. There is interest in seeing whether [Honduran Armed Forces Commander] General Humberto Regalado Hernandez will emerge as Honduras' strongman against Nicaragua. More airplanes have arrived. There were so-called exercises of bombings on real targets in Nicaraguan territory, along the border area. There was even the possibility of carrying out actions in Nicaraguan cities like Esteli, Ocotal, Somoto, and others. This would make war between Honduras and Nicaragua inevitable. I want to ask you: Is this clash inevitable? If it can be avoided, what must Honduras do to prevent it. Would a situation of this kind be limited to Honduras and Nicaragua?

[Ortega] The important thing is to react and to be able to defend ourselves in a case like that. That is why this has been the strategic achievement of the revolution. If by this time we did not have defense system and the weapons to defend our territory, not only would Honduras have been at the border a long time ago, but would be practically surrounding Managua, without needing the Yankees to interfere in support of the contras.

I can tell you that if Honduras gets involved it will suffer a resounding defeat, as would happen to any one who invades another country. Generally, this is what happens anywhere in the world regardless of the ideology. This is what happens. The invader comes out the loser. William Walker came here to invade and left washed up. In Sandino's time, the people expelled the Yankees. Generally, any invader comes out the loser.

We have not neglected this; we have the patriotism and courage to defend the country from any invader.

How can we prevent it? We can do nothing but be ready to defend ourselves. In addition, our government has conducted many diplomatic initiatives without betraying the revolution or our principles, and while remaining decent Latin Americans and anti-imperialists, and without forgetting the poor. If—to prevent Honduras from attacking us, or to keep Regalado or Reagan, or anyone else, happy—we must stop thinking and acting like anti-imperialists, defending the poor, and being Latin Americans, and instead, burn paintings of Che Guevara and Sandino and replace them with pictures of that priest who blessed the U.S. weapons—what's his name? [Ortega continues...] Lezcano Ortega, who blessed the weapons sent here, and if we have to hang pictures of Emiliano Chamorro, of Ronald Reagan in the place of honor, instead of pictures of Benjamin Zeledon, or of Sandino, if that is what it takes to keep us from being attacked, then we are going to be attacked again.

Here, the bases for negotiation and peace lie in that we recognize that the United States exists, and only a lunatic would not recognize that. Only the purely theoretical communist thinks we must carry out the revolution by eliminating everybody else. Moreover, we may, at some time—when we began our revolutionary ideas—have thought that the United States was easy to deal with, but

that is not so, the United is still there. We want the United States to respect Nicaragua and our people. We are struggling so Latin American countries face the big countries regardless of who they may be. We are struggling so the big countries respect us in our economic and political relations and in the community of nations. This is what we want.

Therefore, we are very aware that the United States will be there. However, we are not going to allow the United States to treat us like a puppet, like a rag doll, or like slaves. We are not going to take that from the United States nor from anyone else. In this sense, it would be very difficult to do anything else for peace in addition to what we have been doing without betraying the revolution. To say: Well, OK, to keep the United States, the Congressmen or whoever, happy, let Alfredo Cesar come and take this over, or Calero come and take that, or let Enrique Bermudez come and take the Army; let all those bandits, thieves, and scoundrels who did nothing in the past, but tear this country to pieces, let them come here, to welcome Ronald Reagan and all the other Congressmen and so-called Democrats, to say Nicaragua has been democratized. What a beautiful thing. What for? We cannot do that. That would not constitute serious negotiations. They must recognize that a revolution and the Sandinists exist here, and that the Sandinists are anti-imperialists and revolutionaries who are going to fight for the most noble cause of our people and of the Latin American peoples, and who are nonaligned. They must recognize that, and they must admit that we are going to die defending that cause and that banner. As long as they do not understand this, then they are going to continue in a state of war against us.

Therefore, regarding those threats by Honduras, all we can do is continue trying to create awareness in the Honduran Government, the Azcona Government with whom Daniel actually had a good exchange of ideas in Mexico. We have had some contacts with them recently due to the helicopter incident. We have been calmly waiting to see how the Honduran Government is going to resolve this situation. We believe they are going to act in a reasonable manner because they cannot act against international law, as an international pirate. They have to return the helicopter. We are trying to behave in the most reasonable way so as not to give the warmongers any cause for provocation. We hope the Honduran Army will not fall in the trap of a war because the Honduran people or the Army will gain nothing by war. Logically, the Honduran, the Nicaraguan, and the Central American people are the ones who would suffer in a conflict because a Honduran-Nicaraguan conflict would immediately result in U.S. intervention, and then other forces would be come into being and develop; and we do not know what could happen.

Nevertheless, it would be very harmful to us and we don't want it.

[Moderator] Roberto Gonzales.

[Gonzales] A few weeks ago, 6,000 contras were about to enter Nicaragua, and they did. How many contras are there in Nicaragua at present, and how many in Honduras? My second question is how much progress has been made with the UN secretary general on the international force for the Nicaragua-Honduras border?

[Ortega] The Army of 30,000 Jefferson-type forefathers and others that Reagan wanted, the 30,000 fathers—what are they called?

[Unidentified speaker] They are called founding fathers.

[Ortega continues] Reagan never had 30,000 founding fathers here. Counting their relatives and collaborators, there should be approximately 15,000 men. Most of them are in Honduras. Of those 15,000 men, between 6,000 and 7,000 men are militarily organized at present. The contras try to maintain that number by kidnapping peasants. After Sapoa, most of those men were forced to go to Honduras. In the last few months, especially after July, their attempts to enter Nicaragua in large numbers by attacking our units from Honduran territory, have been repelled.

At present, we calculate that the main contra forces operating in Region 5 and 6 and in part of Region 1 total approximately 2,000 men. They operate in small, disorganized groups. They cannot operate in larger groups. In other words, they operate while moving, unlike in 1987 when they decided to operate in large regional commandos and groups of major units. Large groups allow for a variety of operations and maneuvers. Some of those operations even allow them to occupy territory, take control of roads, and deal harsh blows. Reagan was unable to have an Army of 30,000 U.S. founding fathers bearing their seal of patriotism in Nicaragua. Reagan could never do that. Now, that Army is reduced to a guerrilla group that is dangerous insofar as it attacks economic targets. Those guerrillas will become what other guerrilla groups have become. They have been unable to mobilize and liberate the people as we did here in Nicaragua. In other words, if we had been guerrillas, we would still be fighting. If we had not had the strategy we had, we would still be seeking ways to prevent the Somozist guard from killing us. We would still be in the mountains. We would have been unable to mount a revolution without an adequate strategy to take power such as the one we developed. That strategy caused people to rebel and seize power.

To destroy Sandinism now, the contras would have to oust all Sandinists, who are the entire Nicaraguan people, because the entire people rebelled to oust Somoza. The counterrevolution is scattered in the mountains. They could harm us, but they not even threaten one section of our territory. They cannot alter the correlation of forces, as there are only about 2,000 contras inside Nicaragua. That is not an insignificant number, of course, because 2,000 bandits in any part of the world is a force that must be eliminated. That elimination, however, takes time. I am

talking about guerrillas like the ones that have existed in Colombia since 1948 when the Bogotazo took place at the time of Tiro Fijo, Gaitan [Colombian guerrilla leaders] and all those. Those guerrillas are still there. They have existed for approximately 40 years and Colombians have been unable to eradicate them.

In our case, these guerrillas operate in small groups and in that way they can exist for some time. If they did not have U.S. Government support, they would be persist for a much shorter period of time. We are sure of that. If U.S. support were cut off, these bandits would last a much shorter time. In fact, despite the end of the U.S. support, it is possible they would still exist as a phenomenon in some remote, mountainous regions. We would need MININT troops to pursue them until their final destruction. I calculate there are about 6,000 men. That is our figure.

[Reporter] What about the multilateral force?

[Ortega] I do not know the latest information on that. Victor Hugo can talk about that.

[Tinoco] As you know, the five Central American foreign ministers sent a formal request after their meeting in Mexico.

No formal reply from the OAS secretary general has been received. We know, however, that this office is at work on some ideas. I think this delay is due in part to the fact that the United Nations has been very busy in Europe, where the organization met to listen to the PLO. The secretary general and nearly all his assistants traveled to Europe. All this has delayed the reply a little, but we know they have been working on this. We are expecting a reply at any moment.

[Teck] This is Gloria Teck. Mr Tinoco, you said there might not be much difference between George Bush and Ronald Reagan. There is, however, a great difference between the U.S.-Soviet Union relations now and those in 1980, when Reagan assumed office. How much could Nicaragua be harmed or profit from the unfreezing of the relations between the two superpowers?

[Tinoco] I have never said Bush is like Reagan. I do say, however, that as late as today, 15 December, we are being attacked at the border, civilians are being murdered, there are thousands of Yankees in the region, aircraft continue to overfly our territory, Yankees are fanning the fires of war, and Reagan and his close warmongering assistants keep saying it is necessary to end this revolution. This I know.

Now, what will Bush be like? I do not know. I do know how the United States has acted in 150 years of relations with Nicaragua. From Nicaragua's independence in 1847 to 1934, including the Yankee invasion in 1857, the U.S. policy of war against Nicaragua has resulted in more than 100,000 victims. I can tell you this. I can also tell you that the United States has maintained an ill-advised relationship with Nicaragua for more than 100 years. This relationship has been unfair, one of dominance. In the past 10 years—10 years next July, but to me 10 years have already passed—the United States has continued to pursue an unfair policy of incomprehension and aggression against Nicaragua. This I know.

It remains to be seen, however, if Bush will change this traditional policy in Nicaragua and Latin America; pursue a more practical policy of understanding of the world's current events and Latin America's foreign debt problem; and understand that peoples can no longer be easily subjected to traditional dominance and that it is necessary to change the nature of our relations, even for the United States' own benefit, so the empire can increase its profits, for which it has to create the proper conditions for better trade.

I cannot predict how Mr Bush will act during his term. I can tell you, nevertheless, that the way the U.S. Government has been dealing with us is wrong and has to be changed. This is what we can say.

I can tell you what we will do. What we are trying to do right now is trying to start negotiations. When Bush takes office, I will tell him that we are going to make even greater efforts to try to get the United States, in this case the new administration, to understand that it is necessary that a relationship of practical and rational coexistence be maintained with Nicaragua.

Based on this, we will try to negotiate and reach an agreement that proves reasonable both for the United States and us without the United States ceasing to be what it is and without Nicaragua ceasing to be what it is. Each will have to contribute a little. How will the superpowers act in relation to us? I can tell you we will triumph with or without the superpowers. The Nicaraguan revolution triumphed by itself, with nobody's support, and in disagreement even with the socialists, who failed to understand the guerrilla struggle we headed. They only understood the struggle of the communist parties in Latin America, including Nicaragua. We triumphed without their understanding and support. We want to make this clear. We staged a revolution in Nicaragua mainly with the Nicaraguan people's support and the blood of 50,000 victims, the blood that the young people shed. The support of our brothers abroad was surely important but not fundamental. The fundamental thing was to be willing to shed one's blood and surrender one's life for a cause with or without rifles from abroad. If we had not had rifles, we would have fought with sticks and knives. Anyway, we would have died with dignity, but we were not willing to subjugate ourselves to anybody. We cannot disregard the actions of the famous superpowers, but we cannot disregard our own position in this regard either.

We have said that this cannot be set as a condition for adequate bilateral relations, either in the case of Nicaragua and the United States or Nicaragua and the USSR. At least the USSR has never set any conditions for bilateral relations. We have good relations. Why should we not have good relations with the United States, which is much closer to us and which even has interests in this region that the Soviets do not share? Why? In any case, the United States is being foolish by not acting more practically.

In my opinion, if the United States has problems with the USSR, that is their problem. We have our relations with the USSR, and as of yet, as I have said before, our relationship is respectful and reasonable. It is not a risky relationship. The Soviets are not acting improperly here. We would not allow them to.

We are nobody's colony. Our people traditionally have struggled to be independent, so as not to be anyone's colony. If we can rid ourselves of Yankee domination, we will not let ourselves be dominated by anyone of a different ideological stance. At least, this is not the attitude that we have found in our Soviet or Cuban comrades, or in the Mexicans, with whom we have relations. This is not the attitude of the Western countries with which we have relations. The only ones with a colonialist attitude of domination have been the gringos. The only ones who want to keep treating us as a colony are the gringos—no one else.

In fact, we would praise the two superpowers—the USSR and the United States—if they could achieve total peace. The world would be happy if they forgot about their differences and the arms race and really got along together. Our desire is that they overcome their differences to help the poor, to help small countries, and to benefit noble causes. We are not afraid of [U.S.-USSR] relations. Our relations with the USSR—or with any country in the world—have so far been basically maintained at the same level without interference.

[Moderator] Now, a question from Guillermo [name indistinct] of BARRICADA.

[Reporter] This is a question for Commander Ortega. I would like you to tell us about the situation within the contra military and political leadership, specifically in regard to the divisiveness within the contra directorate and the members of the contra military who were ousted from the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] Directorate.

Second, I want to ask you about an alleged counterrevolutionary plot involving an attack on the cities of Esteli and Puerto Cabezas, which was denounced by contra deserter Horacio Arce, also known as Mercenario.

Last of all, General—you have already addressed the helicopter issue. Does this incident give the United States access to very sophisticated and complex technology? Thank you.

[Ortega] You must be aware that the contras have always plotted attacks on Esteli and Puerto Cabezas. They are constantly trying to carry out these plans. In fact, this would be a very convenient time for them to execute their plan. They have been trying but have not succeeded because of their incompetence. [Contra military leader Enrique] Bermudez himself is now trying to carry out this attack at the end of the year. He wants to wage an extraordinary attack—an adventure in which many people are killed—to give the impression that the contras are alive and fighting and capable of taking over a village.

The contras would like to do a bit of what the Salvadoran guerrillas are actually capable of doing. The Salvadoran guerrillas are indeed a reality that does not depend on a foreign power but on themselves. They are a capable fighting force.

So then, they want Bush to inherit a counterrevolution that, according to the war of images, is very powerful. They want to look like the images of Simon Bolivar and Jefferson, riding their horses, attacking Esteli, and liberating the troops. They would be like the liberators of America.

Ronald Reagan's freedom fighters of America attack Esteli or Puerto Cabezas. This is the image they want to project. The contras are alive! (?They attack,) so that... [changes thought] That is their aim. We do not underestimate these plans. We are always ready to repel them.

Also, as for the contra leadership, it is known that the contras are very divided. There are frictions. At present, there is a clearer split between the Bermudez group and the supposedly more devious sector. Alfredo Cesar heads the truly more devious and politicking sector. These are the two factions. The politickers want to straddle the fence. They want to be with Bermudez; they want to be with Adolfo Calero; they want to be with Reagan; they want to be with the [U.S.] Democrats; they want to be with [Venezuelan President-elect] Carlos Andres Perez. They are running out of people to be with. On the other hand, there are others whose stances are a little clearer. Bermudez is even clearer. He wants to crush us. We want to crush him. The two of us are very clear on this. There is nothing to discuss here. That is not Cesar's case. He is running up and down. That is why he was left out of the contra high command the last time. He was trying to talk to us here, talking with the others over there, and so on. Well, that did not work.

There are two factions. One is the devious, politicking sector. However, Bermudez' sector is much clearer than Cesar's. However, Bermudez is also devious. We do not really know what his intentions are. He always boasted of being Bush's man. That is what he said. However, we do not know if that is true or not. In sum, the contra leaders have shown they are easily divided and compete among themselves. That is what they have shown.

They have lost credibility not only abroad but also among their own counterrevolutioanary units. These units do not respect the contra leadership. Bermudez is the only person the better organized counterrevolutionary units respect. That is the truth because the contra commando units are basically National Guardsmen.

Regarding contra chiefs like Tono and Fernando, the last thing [words indistinct] was that Tono was [words indistinct] in the United States now for Christmas. That was the end [words indistinct] sleeping on the ground without... [changes thought] They are experiencing a lot of difficulties in the United States. I mean Tono and Fernando. [passage indistinct]

As for the helicopter, I do not think the United States is awed by this Mi-25 helicopter. True, the Mi-25 helicopters are very good, but the United States knows about this technology. The United State has more advanced helicopters than this one. Basically, the only thing the United States can attempt to do in regard to the helicopter's stay [in Honduras] is to try to create a provocation. The United States attempts to make the Honduran Government behave irresponsibly to undermine our relations. The United States wants to find ways to [words indistinct] with Honduras regarding the helicopter. At any rate, that is what the United States wants with the helicopter. They are not going to copy this helicopter. That would be something...[changes thought] They already know about this technology.

[Moderator] The last question is for the La Primerisima Radio reporter.

[Reporter] Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo said on several occasions that during the last Sapoa meeting you personally authorized him to bring vehicles into the country. I would like you to tell me if you granted him an oral authorization to bring 25 vehicles into the country?

[Ortega] I think at this time, especially since this is the Christmas season and we are in a religious spirit, we must not really be mistaken about who is our chief enemy. It is Reagan's policy. It is the contras who kill. The differences we have had with the cardinal at the International Verification and Follow-up Commission meeting on some things are not really the fundamental problem. The fundamental problem is the U.S. war of agggression. After that, the differences can be settled as best we can. These problems do not really deserve...

[Announcer, interrupting] The news conference with Army General Humberto Ortega Saavedra has now come to an end. Let us now return to the studios.

1988 Inflation Rate Reaches 27,000 Percent

PA1512190988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1451 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Report by Jose Antonio Maillo]

[Text] Managua, 15 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaragua's currency has reached the incredible inflation rate of 27,000 percent during 1988. This rate was not achieved by Germany after World War I, Bolivia in its worst year, or any other country at any time.

According to predictions by Sandinist experts as well as by independent and opposition economists, this frightening economic indicator will get worse in 1989.

Independent economist Francisco Mayorga, who is a member of the Central American Institute of Business Administration located in Managua, estimated that inflation will climb to 110 percent a month during the 1st half of 1989 and that this rate "is unprecedented in economic history."

Furthermore, Nicaraguan exports will decrease from $200 million in 1988 to $165 million in 1989. Imports will increase from $800 million to $820 million. These figures indicate a trade deficit of $655 million for 1989.

Such devastating figures are shared by the economist and Spanish Catholic priest Xavier Gorostiaga, who is the director of the Economic and Social Investigation Regional Coordinating Board, [Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Economicas y Sociales], which is associated with the Sandinist government.

Mayorga stated: "In Nicaragua, inflation controls the economy. It has a life of its own and determines the country's economic destiny."

"Inflation has mutilated economic policy, and the government is losing its power to govern. The state cannot fulfill one of its basic functions: to regulate the economy for society's well-being," he added.

Mayorga estimated that Nicargua will have higher inflation in 1989 that will, in turn, hasten price increases, uncertainty, and a drop in economic activity.

Furthermore, production will decrease and the number of emigrants will increase. Some 1 million Nicaraguans have already left the country, and it is expected that this number will skyrocket next year.

Nicaragua's current $8-billion foreign debt will increase next year, and its currency (the cordoba) will lose value by more than 306,000 percent, as it did during 1988.

Mayorga believes this situation is caused by, among other factors, rigid government import controls, assignation of foreign loans obtained for specific projects, distrust between producers and government, and uncertainty.

According to Mayorga, "the risk factor is more important than profits for a businessman."

"The situation is so alarming that I hope government economists are taking measures to confront it. They have no other choice but to introduce a new currency parallel to the present one," he concluded.

Problems in Health Care, Costs Reported

PA1512155988 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Despite the efforts made by the Nicaraguan revolutionary government to guarantee health services for our people, it is becoming difficult to get medicine. Medicine sold in drugstores is priced beyond the reach of most workers.

To that situation we must add the slow and sometimes poor attention at hospitals and health centers. When we visit private doctors, we see that prices have reached stratospheric levels beyond the reach of almost all citizens. We are not talking about only workers, but about professionals, too.

A visit to a private doctor now costs up to 40,000 cordobas. As if that were not bad enough, one must add to that the cost of medicine. Many people and families cannot buy the medicine they need.

Panama

Ritter on Relations With U.S., Group of 8

PA1512205088 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 15 Dec 88 p 1

[Article by Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter noted that the whole world "admires" the Panamanians' ability to face an "unjust" aggression by the largest military power and added that, therefore, "the struggle being waged has acquired great significance."

"Yes, of course," Ritter responded in noting the admiration and support Panama has received in its struggle against the United States.

Asked if there has been government-level contact with George Bush, head of the new U.S. Administration, he responded curtly: "None."

Regarding the current situation between Panama and the United States, he said: "There has been no flexibility or indication that the Reagan administration's attitude of aggression toward Panama has substantially changed."

Broaching another topic during a brief conversation with MATUTINO, Foreign Minister Ritter referred to the Contadora and Support Groups, saying that Panama has participated in all the efforts to secure peace in Central America through dialogue and negotiation.

He admitted, however, that in the Group of Eight there persists "an alienation" that may last perhaps until the foreign ministers of those countries reach a decision.

Ritter explained the difference between the Contadora Group, comprising Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, and the Group of Eight, made up of the aforementioned countries and Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Peru.

The latter has apparently assumed a position of "alienating" Panama in the goal of working to achieve progress in Latin America on trade, economic issues, and common problems of the region. Nevertheless, there is effective solidarity in the face of the U.S. aggression, and Panama has maintained contacts.

In 1983 Panama was the country that proposed the idea of forming a group of countries to get the Central American countries to sit down at the negotiating table to find a peaceful political solution to secure a stable and lasting peace on the Central American isthmus.

FENASEP Vows To Face U.S. 'Aggression'

PA1512162488 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] "The U.S. imperialist aggression is a conspiracy against our peoples' liberation process. Public workers as well as the working class in general are going to face it in whatever way is necessary," Hector Aleman, reelected secretary general of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, FENASEP, has said in statements to the National Information System.

Aleman said "our country's future will be defined in the May 1989 elections, and public workers will seek an agreement with the country's new leaders so that our rights and gains are guaranteed."

Aleman added that "the electoral process will give the opportunity to all the country's mass and nationalist forces to reach an agreement on a common plan that will allow us to work toward a national consolidation."

When referring to FENASEP, Aleman said "we believe its future is brighter today than ever before, because the newly elected directors are its most capable cadres and have gained valuable experience during the 4 years since this organization was formed."

"As FENASEP's leader, my main achievements have been to bring together and organize the public workers and to have acted in accordance with national interests, in accordance with our peoples' desire for liberation, and in accordance with the defense of our public workers' rights and gains," the FENASEP secretary general concluded.

Editorial on Problems of U.S.-Paid Workers

PA1512225488 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Dec 88 p 4

[Editorial: "The Unexpected Consequences of the Aggression"]

[Text] The originators, plotters, and executors of the U.S. aggression against our country knew from the start the effect their negative actions would have on the

people. However, most of the Panamanians who supported these actions had no idea how far this foreign attack would go or how it would affect the various sectors of our population.

But as the months went by, we began to see that the government, Defense Forces, and one particular person—the only targets the aggressors were aiming at with their rockets of destabilization, humiliation, and extreme poverty—were not the only ones affected by these actions.

Other unforeseeable targets were also hit: the people. Even some people who in the beginning considered themselves beyond the danger zone were hit. For example, and to mention only a few, these included the large number of Panamanians and foreigners who work for U.S. companies and get paid by the United States.

Not everyone who works for those U.S. companies supported the aggression. However, there was a good-sized group of those who did not seem to care about what happened to Panama or to the Panamanians working in Panama. That group felt they were safe from wage cuts and other adverse effects experienced by the Panamanian worker.

The aggression intensified. In one of these moves, Mr Reagan ordered the U.S. companies who employ Panamanian workers to continue deducting their income tax but to withhold payment to the Panamanian Government.

Many of the people whose income tax payments were being withheld did not really care that this was being done, because they felt it was their way of helping those who wanted to leave Manuel Solis Palma's government penniless.

Today, the same people are protesting because the same government they were helping the enemy to overthrow is refusing to grant them their tax clearance certificates. A tax clearance certificate is a document issued to a person who has no outstanding debts with the Finance Ministry, specifically the Income Tax Office.

We all know that because of this situation many innocent people are affected. They are paying for tolerating those actions rather than doing something to stop them. These are people who chose to remain silent and removed from the problem; remaining silent is the same as agreeing. The truth is that very few of these people have actually protested against those who are withholding their taxes. Instead, they protest against a government that cannot issue a tax clearance certificates to a person with an outstanding debt—to someone who has not paid his taxes.

This has become a serious problem for those who find themselves in need of tax clearance certificates. It also represents a bitter and unforgettable experience that should help the Panamanian people join their intellectual, material, and spiritual forces to confront any present or future problem.

Legislator Says Southern Command Plans To Stay

PA1512133788 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 14 Dec 88 pp 1, 2

[Text] Legislator Luis Gomez, president of the Legislative Assembly's Committee for Canal Affairs, has reported to the assembly that "the United States intends" to keep the Southern Command on Panamanian soil.

Gomez, who is also a Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) member, said the United States has prepared "a strategy to keep its military forces in Panama." He charged that the strategy includes transferring Rodman Naval Station to the complex on Galeta Island in the Atlantic Ocean and other changes to the Southern Command bases in our country.

Gomez asserted that "the U.S. plan to guarantee that U.S. troops stay in Panama beyond the year 2000" also aims to take advantage of the "economic crisis caused by the U.S. economic sanctions and then have the United States offer a payment of up to $2 billion" to keep the Southern Command in Panama.

Argentina

Nicaragua's Ramirez Hospitalized for Tests

PY1512211888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2102 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)—This afternoon the Nicaraguan Embassy in Buenos Aires reported the Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado was hospitalized yesterday at the Central Military Hospital to undergo several medical tests and examinations.

In a press communique, the Nicaraguan Embassy said that today, fortunately, Ramirez Mercado's health is completely satisfactory.

The communique adds that Ramirez Mercado, who is visiting Argentina, will attend the presentation of his most recent novel "Divine Punishment" at the General San Martin Cultural Center tonight, and that tomorrow he will follow his original agenda.

Caputo on Geneva Meeting With UK Ambassador

PY1512133088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1303 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister and President of the UN General Assembly Dante Caputo has recommended that caution must prevail regarding his meeting in Geneva with Sir Crispin Tickell, British ambassador to the United Nations. He also termed as impressive the change that has occurred during the past few hours in Middle East policies.

Caputo met yesterday in Geneva with Ambassador Tickell, the United Kingdom's permanent representative to the UN General Assembly, to discuss the Palestinian case.

Asked about the Malvinas topic, he said that caution must prevail, and added: We will see how it goes.

Asked by Radio El Mundo about the declaration that was made by Vernon Walters, the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, Caputo stated that it has caused an enormous impact and a sigh [estremecimiento] in all the delegations of the Assembly.

Caputo said that all of these changes are achieved with bold actions and with the a lot of courage of all those involved, and we must learn from this because a lot of courage is needed for peace. Caputo was referring to the U.S. declaration asking that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank.

He maintained that, with the declaration by Yasir 'Arafat in which he condemned all types of terrorism, and by having accepted the existence of the state of Israel and the contents of the resolutions of the United Nations and of the Security Council on the matter, the necessary conditions had been set to begin a dialogue.

After recalling the U.S. refusal to grant the Palestine leader a visa, and the resulting trouble that this caused the UN General Assembly, which for the first time in its history transferred its seat from New York to Geneva, Caputo stressed that in spite of the United States refusal to grant the visa, the dialogue and 'Arafat's announcements have now produced these changes.

Army Chief of Staff on Aftermath of Rebellion

PY1512151288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1036 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Rosario, 15 Dec (NA)—Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Jose Caridi has stressed the need to reach a "civil-military accord" for the sake "of the common good of the country," adding that he is "totally free" to decide whether or not to retire.

Alluding to the rumors that the agreement reached with the rebels includes his retirement, Caridi said that "there were no preconditions of any kind."

During the swearing-in ceremony of the new commander of the 2d Army Division, which is headquartered in this city and which has jurisdiction over the Parana River Basin, Caridi reiterated that Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin is under arrest at the General Support Directorate in the Palermo Barracks.

Concerning the antagonism between the "blackened faces" and the "loyal" troops, Caridi said that "there was an agreement between the two sectors," adding that "this accord, or whatever you want to call it, specified that under no circumstances would the democratic system be attacked."

He recalled that when he took over on 29 May 1987 he clearly outlined the objectives and needs of the Army, "and there is no difference between what I said on that occasion and the demands that have been posed now."

"Yet there was a difference," he went on, "and it had to do with the way the demands were posed. In fact, we said: Gentlemen, the law and the military regulations must be complied with. The rebels, however, adopted an attitude of indiscipline."

He stressed that he received direct orders, through a decree signed by Vice President Victor Martinez, to repress the rebels "even with the use of arms."

These orders were later confirmed by President Alfonsin upon his return to the country, Caridi added.

The Army chief of staff said that "the Army has found a new path" and that "everyone has understood that we are driven by the same motivation and by the same objectives. It is totally inappropriate and nonproductive to try different paths."

"Now we have a single path, and I believe the Army will calmly follow it," Caridi said.

The Army chief of staff talked to reporters during a tumultuous press conference after installing General Isidoro Caceres (one of the officers who participated in the last military crisis) a 2d Division commander, during a ceremony at the parade ground of Communications Battalion No 121.

The ceremony was attended by Santa Fe Governor Victor Reviglio, Rosario Mayor Horacio Usandizaga, provincial and federal lawmakers, and government officials.

In response to a question Caridi said, "National reconciliation is a desirable objective; it should be clearly stated so that no effort should be spared to achieve this goal."

"We went through critical moments. It is absolutely necessary that all Argentines make an effort in order to overcome this situation. I believe we are moving forward in that direction," he said.

He believes that it is necessary to "carefully mediate and perform a deep, self-critical analysis among all Argentines. No one should raise charges, but one must declare what he has done for the fatherland. I believe that this attitude will lead us along a very positive path, which will finally lead us to the pacification and harmony that all Argentines seek," he added.

He said that "the chain of command has been restored" and that "even though some details may still be pending, we can say that most of it has been restored."

As for the tension that may be generated by the problems of the Armed Forces, Caridi said: I will reiterate what I have just said. I believe that a civic-military accord is absolutely necessary, an accord in which all sectors seek the common good of the country. Inspired by this objective, everyone should work for the objectives which are clear to the Argentine people, and which have for a long time remained far from us because I believe we do not yet have the necessary understanding that will let us achieve those objectives.

Concerning the possibility of calling a plebiscite to let the people decide on an amnesty law, Caridi said he did not want to talk about the subject.

"I don't want to talk about details. I want to begin moving along the great path. The details will be solved later," he said.

Asked about the points of agreement between the opposing sides at Villa Martelli, Caridi asked for "patience."

"If you reporters have a bit of patience I will try to answer your question, because I am very concerned about this. I am very concerned about the way words like accord, pact, points of agreement, and so forth have been used. I believe that at times some people want to make this situation appear like an underground, sneaky arrangement, as if there was something secret that, to some extent, also involved Army and government leaders. Nothing of the sort has happened."

"I want to tell you that if there was any agreement between both sides it was that under no circumstances would the democratic system be attacked. That was the great accord or whatever you want to call it. There were also other points of agreement. You recall that when I took over on 29 May 1987, I addressed a speech in which I clearly outlined the objectives and the demands of the Army. This position, which was not new, had developed over the past 2 years and it is shared by the whole Army."

"Consequently, there could have been no disagreement as to what the two sides wanted. There was, however, disagreement as to the manner in which the demands were being posed. We said: Gentlemen, the law and the military regulations must be complied with. The rebels adopted an attitude of indiscipline and a confrontation was then necessary in order to make them reconsider their attitude. I want to be clear about this point. I received very clear orders from the vice president, and the orders were later confirmed by the president upon his return to the country, to take all necessary measures to subdue the rebels. A decree was issued authorizing the use of arms if necessary."

He explained that in Campo de Mayo, the loyal troops fired at the Infantry School and the rebels then asked for a cease-fire. "There was a conversation and some points were clarified. The conclusion was that there was no disagreement and that it would be useless to shed Argentine blood because we agreed on what had to be done and because we agreed that attitudes should be reconsidered."

He went on to say that "at no time did those agreements or coincidences involve any commitment whatsoever by the political sector. It was a direct exchange between the leaders of the two sides."

"I believe that no one can give assurances that something similar will not happen again, although I believe that a new path has been opened for the Army, that all of us have understood that we have the same motivation and the same objectives, and that it is totally inappropriate and nonproductive to try another path. Now we have a single path and I believe the Army [words indistinct]."

He praised the reduction of "the attacks against the Armed Forces," and he denied that an amnesty law has been requested. He also mentioned his eventual retirement.

"I have neither commitments nor preconditions. I am free and I will leave when I feel that it is necessary," he said.

He added that "there was much concern about the presence of armed people in the Villa Martelli area." As for the armed civilians who harassed the Army troops,

Caridi said that "the media identified them as belonging to the PC [Communist Party], the FRAL [Broad Front for Liberation], and the Montoneros."

Albatross Unit Personnel To Be 'Discharged'

PY1512111688 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1928 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Dec (NA)—Today Naval Prefect Juan Antonio Mosqueda announced that members of the "Albatross" squadron, who joined the rebellion headed by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, will be discharged.

Mosqueda also disclosed that "the continuation of commando training courses" by prefecture personnel in conjunction with the Army is being "seriously" reconsidered.

Mosqueda said: "Salary claims, or claims of any type, cannot be made through the use of force or weapons." He emphasized: "The rules of discipline and democracy must always be respected."

Speaking to Cablevision, Mosqueda admitted: "I am unaware of the real motive" that led his subordinates "to rebel." Nevertheless, he emphasized: "I am sure that no claims can be made against our institution, or against problems affecting our institution."

Mosqueda added that the rest of the personnel under his command "continue to work normally without disrupting the established order."

He also said that "before the end of the year" the prefecture "will apply disciplinary sanctions" to those involved in the military uprising "independent of any federal court proceedings."

It has been reported that Prefect Julio Alberto Castiglia, the Bariloche Naval Prefecture commander, has been appointed as commander of the Albatross Squadron of the Olivos Naval Prefecture in Buenos Aires Province.

Castiglia will assume as commander of the Albatross Commando Squadron on 20 December.

At the parade ground of the General Matias de Irigoyen Naval Prefecture School today, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena presided over the graduation ceremony of the 54th class of Naval Prefecture petty officers.

Naval Prefect General Juan Eduardo Mosqueda, high-ranking officials, and Naval Prefecture commanders and officers, as well as special guests from other security forces, also attended the ceremony.

The 24th class of the Support Corps, and the 5th class of the Prefecture Technical Corps also received their graduation diplomas.

50 Officers Reportedly Under House Arrest

PY1512165888 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 5

[Excerpts] Bahia Blanca (NA)—A news report disseminated here yesterday says "there are more than 50 captains from the Higher War School, the Higher Technical School, and the Intelligence School who are under house arrest, awaiting the beginning of legal action against them."

The daily LA NUEVA PROVINCIA has reported that more than 30 captains from the Higher War School "who refused to repress the rebels" were called on 5 December to fill forms "under orders to answer a number of questions laid down by the chief of the General Staff."

The report is part of a series of bulletins containing background information which the newspaper published on the military crisis.

The report adds that "the UCR and their information services did not even contemplate the possibility of a military uprising" and that their unawareness of the situation is epitomized "by the way Colonel Seineldin entered the country from Colonia, Uruguay. He did not have any problem. He even gave his real name when he boarded the hovercraft."

The newspaper says that "at least twice during the crisis those who played the major roles raised their voices in anger," adding that those were "moments of tension."

According to the newspaper "the first incident occurred during a meeting between President Raul Alfonsin and General Wenceslao Abbate, Army General Staff deputy chief. The second incident took place when General Caridi and Colonel Seineldin met in Sarmiento Park at 1600 on 4 December."

The newspaper says that "around that time on 4 December, when everything indicated that loyal troops would not have to open fire on the rebels, some government sectors panicked. Around midafternoon when the 4th Airborne Brigade (headquartered in Cordoba) made its decision known a deputy was heard saying he was contemplating asylum at the embassy of a neighboring country."

The front page article says that "many important UCR leaders (from the UCR Coordinating Board to be exact) even sent their families away and took precautions just in case they had to leave the country in a hurry."

According to the daily, the authority of two generals "was openly contested by their subordinates. Their request for early retirement is expected at any time for obvious reasons. They are General Roberto Dominguez, commander of the III Army Corps, and General Eugenio Dalton, commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade."

The report adds that "Gen Dominguez could not control his largest brigade while Gen Dalton gave an uninspiring performance because, until yesterday, he could not retake control of the 6th Infantry Brigade, in Mercedes, from the hands of Major Abete, who continues to maintain a rebellious attitude." [passage omitted]

The report says that "the 1st Artillery Group (headquartered in Ciudadela) under the orders of Lieutenant Colonel Bovone was the unit that opened fire on the Campo de Mayo Infantry School. The first shot was fired by a noncommissioned officer, but other officers disobeyed the orders to open fire and the commissioned officers had to do it themselves."

New III Corps Chief of Staff Assumes Post

PY1512150188 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0419 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Summary] Cordoba, 13 Dec (TELAM)—This afternoon II Army Corps Commander installed Colonel Edmundo Aldo Bertorello as the III Corps Chief of Staff.

Col Bertorello was previously deputy commander of the 4th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Comodoro Rivadavia.

Government Signs Grain Agreement With Venezuela

PY1512144688 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 15 Dec (DYN)—Argentine Ambassador to Venezuela Julio Colombo, who arrived here today, said that President Raul Alfonsin will attend the Venezuelan presidential inauguration on 2 February 1989. [passage omitted]

Colombo also said that Argentina has just signed "a trade agreement with Venezuela to export 250,000 tons of wheat. This will be the third shipment. On two other occasions Argentina exported 200,000 and 238,000 tons of wheat."

Colombo admitted that there were "some problems" in the operation "because some Venezuelan importers have said that Argentina did not fulfill the agreement. This is not true. There are other problems which are already being solved. The Argentine National Grain Council did fulfill the agreement."

Colombo was referring, although he did not say so officially, to the problem of the tonnage exported.

Colombo also said that the state companies of the two countries which manufacture military materiel have just signed "an agreement of mutual cooperation, which includes an exchange of ammunition and armaments."

He also officially reported that studies are being made "on an agreement for the importation of heavy crude which is currently being imported from other countries."

He said that "a joint venture [two preceding words given in English] type agreement between the state oil enterprises of the two countries may be signed."

Bolivia

MIR Leader Comments on Entry of U.S. Troops

PY1612021088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Dec 88

[Text] Jaime Paz Zamora, leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, has stated that his party does not object to the entry of American servicemen into Bolivia as long as the Bolivian Congress approves of the action.

Paz Zamora said that the MIR position in Congress has been misunderstood. He added that due to a lack in democratic training, the Bolivian Senate has approved a resolution stating that the U.S. servicemen who are coming to Bolivia are not regarded as foreign troops.

Paz Zamora described this resolution as a typical maneuver by some Bolivian congressmen seeking to distort the situation.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] In this regard, I want to state that the MIR upholds that, in accordance with the Constitution, the Congress must authorize the presence of any foreign troops in the country, whether armed or unarmed, whether from the United States, Argentina, Brazil, or any other country. [end recording]

Paz Zamora said that even if the Americans are coming to help, as is the case of the Potosi airport, they must have congressional approval to enter Bolivia.

He also said that in January next year he will disclose the name of his running mate for the general election.

Paz Zamora added that his opponent for the Nationalist Democratic Action, General Hugo Banzer Suarez, must contribute to promoting a clean, open electoral process to meet the desires of most Bolivian people.

New Peruvian Ambassador Presents Credentials

PY1512143888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0426 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] La Paz, 14 Dec (EFE)—Oscar Maurtua de Romana, the new Peruvian ambassador to Bolivia, today presented his credentials to President Victor Paz, under very strict security measures.

A five-line cordon of police was placed around Government House in La Paz to safeguard the arrival, stay, and departure of the diplomat, who refrained from commenting on the murder of Navy Captain Juan Vega Llona, the Peruvian Naval attache, on 6 December in La Paz.

Access to Government House was restricted, and after the ceremony several vehicles containing plainclothesmen accompanied the ambassador to this residence.

In a brief written statement, Maurtua de Romana expressed his government's intention of encouraging bilateral integration and cooperation, and he passed on Peruvian President Alan Garcia's "affection" to the Bolivian chief of state.

Vega Llona was murdered in a downtown street of La Paz, 100 meters from his embassy, by two members of the until-then-unknown Workers Revolutionary Movement, which is presumably linked to the Maoist Shining Path terrorist organization.

* Miners Congress Calls for Active Resistance

* Subversion Ultimate Tactic

33480041b La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
23 Nov 88 p 7

[Text] "Mere opposition to neoliberalism is not enough. We must shift from opposition to active resistance and then to subversion," say the salient sections of the political document that was approved at the 22nd National Miners Congress, which closed on Monday in Mina Chojlla.

The political proposal, which was supported by the brand new secretary general of the Miners Federation, Edgar Ramirez (from the Communist Party Fifth Congress), among others, was approved by 85 of the 231 regular delegates attending the Miners Congress, inasmuch as the draft submitted by Oscar Salas and Mario Cortes (from the PCB [Bolivian Communist Party]) was withdrawn.

According to the approved document: "Mere opposition to neoliberalism is not enough. We must shift from opposition to active resistance and then to subversion. This implies shattering the framework of controlled democracy, whose impact on the labor movement can be seen in its game of dialogue and agreement, agreement and dialogue once again, when the government does not abide by the agreements that take the form of contracts."

In an obvious allusion to the current leadership of the Labor Federation, whose head is Simon Reyes from the PCB, the Ramirez document asserts: "Regrettably, in pursuing this tactic the government has found an ally in a reformist union leadership that, in response to the demands for consistency from the rank and file, has called for symbolic rallies lasting from 5 minutes to a maximum of 2 hours, rallies that do not affect the MOVI-ADN government. This reformist ally retains some influence in the union camp by distorting the will of the workers through the action of the partisan political machine and the tolerance of the ruling party."

It indicates that: "The subversive action of the masses must have political leadership, a consistent vanguard, which does not yet exist. The attempts to achieve one have failed, among other things, because they were unable to overcome their own contradictions, as in the case of the UDP [Democratic and Popular Unity], or because they go no further than vote-getting schemes, as is beginning to happen with IU [United Left]."

Further on it says: "It is clear that the immediate platform of struggle for today and after August 1989 is a resistance that incorporates the immediate grievances of all those hurt by neoliberalism."

* General Conflict Urged

33480041b La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
21 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Report by special correspondent Fernando del Carpio Z.]

[Text] Mina Chojlla—In his address to the 22d National Miners Congress the executive secretary of the COB, Simon Reyes, said that since the government has not been responsive to the workers' demands, there was a need to prepare for the general conflict as of now. Acknowledging that such action could not be undertaken immediately, the executive secretary of the COB said that steps such as strikes, etc. could begin during the second half of this January, because November is not appropriate since it influences the average of the Christmas bonus, nor is December because it is a holiday month.

Moreover, the deliberations of this congress are being prolonged because the commissions have not yet handed in clean copies of their reports and a large percentage of the delegates would rather engage in other activities than attend the plenary sessions, most of which are opening almost 2 hours after they have been called.

As of this time (1800 hours on Sunday), only the report of the economic commission has been discussed and passed; it recommended support for the COB's national list of demands, which has been submitted for the consideration of the Chamber of Deputies. In addition, it recommends that the Miners Federation continue the negotiations for the establishment of the contract prices and that as of now the negotiations be undertaken directly between the Miners Federation and the organizations that represent miners in the private sector.

The election of the new Executive Committee of the FSTMB [Trade Union Federation of Bolivian Mineworkers] might be held early Monday morning. According to a preliminary report from the credentials committee, 27 unions support the re-election of Victor Lopez Arias and only 18 support Simon Reyes. Nevertheless, both sectors (leftist independents and the Communist Party of Bolivia) feel that the political document that will be approved will determine the line of the new union officers of the Miners Federation.

Both Lopez Arias and Reyes said that they have reached no agreement nor are conducting negotiations to define the makeup of the FSTMB. In the judgment of the PCB, however, Oscar Salas ought to be elected secretary general and Lopez Arias ought to be re-elected in order to maintain unity.

*** Incursion by Armed Groups Unsubstantiated**
32480041a Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish
22 Nov 88 pp 1, 8

[Text] La Paz, 21 Nov (LOS TIEMPOS)—The investigations undertaken by state security agencies to verify the reported presence of irregular armed groups on national territory have not yielded positive results, according to a report that Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duarte sent to the Chamber of Deputies.

In response to a request filed by Deputy Marcelo Quiroga Obregon (ADN) for a report on the possible incursion by armed groups into our territory in the wake of complaints from foreigners and nationals in the Achacachi high plateau zone near the border with Peru, Minister Duran indicated the following:

"After nationals and foreigners charged that they had been attacked in the Sorata region by armed groups, presumably guerrillas operating in the region, investigations were conducted there. However, the findings did not yield positive details for ascertaining the activities of said armed groups, spheres of influence, composition, settlements and other complementary data that would shed greater light on the charges."

He adds that "the investigations have uncovered only the activity of a few local peasant farmers who for clearly criminal purposes reportedly intercepted a caravan of mountain climbers, robbed them of some of their belongings and then let them go without inflicting any physical damage whatsoever on them."

Minister Duran says in the report sent to the Chamber of Deputies that "the investigations have been conducted in the regions of Chojnakhala, Frasquia, Khellhuani, Khasamayo, Chiahuyu and Copapoto in Omasuyos Province in the department of La Paz, where the peasants have shown themselves to be very aggressive. We cannot assert that the activities of these local peasants are ongoing, in the sense of violating the standards of peaceful coexistence."

The report concludes by indicating that "all of the agencies that come under the Interior, Migration and Justice Ministry have received pertinent instructions to conduct the appropriate investigations to clear up the charges and the alleged activities of armed or irregular groups on national territory. Any information received in this regard will be duly processed to guarantee peace and tranquillity for our citizenry."

*** Central Bank Says Mineral Exports To Rebound**
33480041c La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
13 Nov 88 p 10

[Text] The rebound in mineral exports will boost GDP (gross domestic product) growth to more than 3.5 percent by the end of the year, the president of the Central Bank of Bolivia, Jaques Trigo, has declared.

Mineral exports during the first half of 1988 totaled $139 million, a 221 percent increase over the same period in 1987, when earnings were just $43.3 million, according to Planning Ministry reports.

Minerals were again Bolivia's leading export, due mainly to a recovery in the production of tin, silver and gold.

According to authorities in this ministry, tin production during the first half of 1988 totaled 4,689 metric tons, up 99.4 percent from the same period in 1987. Silver production was 109 metric tons during the first 6 months of 1988, a rise of 186.8 percent over the same period in 1987. Gold production reached 2,028 metric tons during the first half of this year, up more than 397 percent from the same period last year.

The Central Bank president indicated that the exports of cooperatives and small miners posted a major increase, and of course the Mining Corporation of Bolivia (COMIBOL) saw a significant rise in its mineral exports, too. The corporation was practically shut down in 1987, he added.

To this we can add the increase in cement production and in activity in the construction sector, due mainly to the projects of the Emergency Social Fund (FSE) and the investments of the mayor's offices, mainly with the tax revenues that Law 843 assigns them, Trigo said.

A great deal of activity in the construction sector and in public works investments can be seen in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba, he added.

In the opinion of the Central Bank president, the rising investment that we can see is going to lower the unemployment rate.

All of these indicators suggest that by the end of the year the value of goods and services could be up by more than 3.5 percent, he said in conclusion.

*** Delayed Argentine Payments Hamstring Economy**
33480041d La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
25 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] The public-sector economy is in a state of semiparalysis because of the cash crunch that the General Treasury of the Nation (TGN) is suffering as a result of Argentina's delay in paying some $40 million for Bolivian gas, Finance Minister Ramiro Cabezas asserted yesterday.

The effects of this delay were described by the minister as "extremely serious." Argentina is 2 months behind, which represents around $20 million, he said.

As a result of the delay, the TGN is faced with a major decline in funds, which has forced it to take steps to control the issuance of currency, such as freezing the government accounts of public enterprises and ministries and other restrictions on government spending, he indicated.

At present "the regional development corporations are paralyzed. The General Treasury cannot meet its obligations, and we have to cut back spending," he added.

"Argentina says that it will do what it can to pay. We are making every effort at the diplomatic and personal level, but so far we have not succeeded in normalizing the payments," he asserted.

Freeze

Referring in greater detail to the freezing of government accounts, which affects ministries and public enterprises to the tune of some $20.6 million, the minister said that the purpose is to prevent the surpluses generated by the public sector from putting pressure on the street-market value of the dollar.

The freeze in funding, described as "temporary," affects government accounts until 7 November of this year.

According to the official report, "the surpluses of the enterprises were often used to put pressure on the street market. Thus, the aim of the freeze is to see to it that spending by public enterprises occurs within a framework of normalcy." The funds of institutions that prove a need to expend money will be unfrozen, he added.

The minister said that the funds generated by the enterprises as of the 7th of this month will not be subject to the freeze.

United Nations To Fund Coca Replacement Program

PY1512133988 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Summary] The Foreign Ministry has reported that Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal has signed two accords with the United Nations fund for the control of drugs under which the fund will provide Bolivia with a $17.3-million disbursement for the program of voluntary reduction of coca farms in Chapare.

5 Kg of Cocaine Seized in La Paz, 3 Arrested

PY1512125488 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Colonel Nicolas Anaya, chief of the La Paz antidrug squad, has reported that approximately 5 kg of cocaine were seized in Villa Fatima, La Paz.

[Begin Anaya recording] Two men and a woman were arrested while trafficking 4,850 grams of cocaine base in a private house in Villa Fatima this morning. The traffickers were probably going to take the drug somewhere else to crystalize it before marketing it. [end recording]

Col Anaya said that cocaine production in La Paz has increased because of the upcoming year-end celebrations, adding that a cocaine factory was dismantled a few days ago in Villa Adela, in El Alto.

Brazil

Rumor of U.S. Troops Near Santa Maria Denied

PY1512165088 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Dec 88 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Federal Deputy Vicente Bogo (PMDB—Rio Grande do Sul State) has submitted a request for information from the Executive Branch about the presence of foreign troops in the country, more specifically, of U.S. troops in the Army training groups near Santa Maria in Rio Grande do Sul. According to the deputy, an area of 60,000 hectares used by the Army for military exercises "has reportedly been given or lent to the foreign troops."

The Army has denied the existence of any agreement with the Pentagon, but admitted that General Glyn Mallory of the U.S. 2d Armored Division had visited the Santa Maria Command to attend military maneuvers of Brazilian soldiers.

Adherence to 1971 Nuclear Treaty Announced

PY1512164688 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Dec 88 p 9

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday Brazil subscribed to the 1971 treaty prohibiting the planting of nuclear weapons and other mass destruction weapons on the seabed, in the depths of the ocean, and in the subsoil [Seabed Treaty]. The Brazilian adherence to this treaty was published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

According to Itamaraty, Brazil's adherence to one more treaty against the proliferation of nuclear weapons is part of the government effort toward the creation of denuclearized zones and for international peace.

According to a diplomatic source, the delay in promulgating a treaty signed 17 years ago is due to two factors: first the delay in bureaucratic procedures, because the document had to be ratified by both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies; and secondly because of the analysis made by the involved sectors, which resulted in an interpretative document that was added to the ratification that was handed to Great Britain, the United States, and to the Soviet Union (depository states). The note expresses Brazil's concern that the treaty would not influence its sovereign rights in the sea and in its subsoil.

Chile

Finance Minister Hernan Buchi Returns From Japan

PY1512181988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Upon arriving at Comodoro Arturo Merino Benitez airport from Japan, Finance Minister Hernan Buchi categorically stated that he is not a candidate for any position. Visibly annoyed at the question, the minister refused to talk about the issue.

In Japan, the minister signed an accord with Japan's Eximbank through which the Chilean Government will receive a $200-million loan. [passage omitted]

Frei Officially Resigns as PDC Precandidate

PY1512183388 Santiago Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Text] Eduardo Frei has officially resigned from being a nominated precandidate of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in a move to find a solution to the party's internal conflict.

[Begin Frei recording] I have come to announce my resignation from being designated the PDC's precandidate to the Presidency of the Republic. The interests of Chile and its people are above everything else. I hope that my resignation will pave the way to find a solution to the PDC crisis, and to facilitate the designation of whoever is heading the unity struggle for democracy at the next presidential elections. [end recording]

PDC Vice President Edgardo Benninger has stated that Patricio Aylwin has not resigned from being chosen precandidate for the next elections. According to Benninger, Aylwin has stated that he is at the disposal of the party, and that the party, through its regular organizations, will decide on his candidacy.

He added that Aylwin has stated that if his name is an obstacle in the current crisis, he would make all possible efforts to find a solution.

Andres Palma, PDC adviser, has stated that the whole country is demanding Aylwin's resignation, and inviting the other two precandidates to do the same. Now that Frei and Valdes have resigned in an irrevocable manner, we hope that Aylwin will do the same.

Court Orders Seizure of PCCh Printing Elements

PY1512135888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] The court has ordered the confiscation of all elements used by the proscribed PCCh to print communiques, whether for circulation among party members or for distribution to the public in general.

This report was released by lawyer Marcelo Benegas, sponsor of the injuction issued last Saturday against those who make up the illegal organization known as the communist party.

Benegas added that the request for an injunction has been submitted to Trial Judge Domingo Coquis by the prosecutor general of the Republic. Benegas said that the judge has accepted the request and immediately ordered the confiscation of such elements.

He added that a new list of names of people and their background reports have been presented to the judge. He said that a report was also presented referring to public statements made by PCCh spokesmen Jose Sanfuentes, Americo Zorrilla, and Guillermo Sherpin. They have reportedly stated that the communists will not rest until the current regime is overthrown.

EL SIGLO Asks for Return of Property

PY1512210588 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p C-2

[Text] The editorial board of the newspaper EL SIGLO, the official mouthpiece of the PCCh, has voiced its intention to ask the government to return all the property confiscated from the press media after 11 September 1973.

This announcement was made yesterday in a news conference by board members Jose Miguel Varas and Luis Barria. They also announced that a new edition of EL SIGLO hit newsstands in Santiago, Valparaiso, and Concepcion yesterday.

During the news conference, the editorial board members were asked if they thought that Article 8 of the Constitution would prevent the newspaper from circulating freely. They replied that the appearance of EL SIGLO represents, to a certain extent, a test as to whether freedom of the press exists in this transition period. The editorial board members also said that, regardless of Article 8, "we intend to demonstrate that no piece of legislation can be effective unless it is in line with reality."

Concerning EL SIGLO's copyright, Luis Barria, who was EL SIGLO's manager until 1973, said that this question will be solved within a couple of weeks as long as no problems are raised over the publication, which has been announced in the official gazette.

Chilean Press Board Treasurer Guillermo Torres and former Senator Rafael Agustin Gumucio, who represented the newspaper FORTIN MAPOCHO, were also present at the news conference.

* Christian Left Leader on PCCh, Elections

33480042b Santiago COSAS in Spanish 10 Nov 88 pp 99-101

[Interview with Luis Maira, president of Christian Left, by Zayda Cataldo; date and place not given; first four paragraphs are introduction]

[Excerpts] Everything is changing. The political scene is different; the ministers are no longer the same, and even the military Junta is not the same. Parties unite and split;

conventions follow one after the other.... But there is a common denominator to all of these comings and goings in Chilean politics: the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Christian Left (IC) had a long road to hoe before making the decision to register, in as little time as possible, a political party that "is capable of embodying the profound aspirations of our people for democracy and socialism."

Luis Maira, the secretary general of the IC, told COSAS that "this new party will not be 'instrumental' because the point is to put together an electoral, programmatic group. In other words, one that will put forth a program that represents a modern, unified left that has the ability to make proposals and the will to take up the challenges of the future."

In our conversation he made it clear that they seek to legalize not United Left or COSONO [Socialist Command for the No] but a new force that has a uniform view of the country's current situation and that must be complemented by an electoral bloc and a single opposition candidate in the next presidential election. [passage omitted]

Including the PC

[COSAS] What involvement does the Communist Party [PC] have in this new entity?

[Maira] This party has been organized by several forces that are basic in Chile. We and Almeyda's Socialist Party were fundamentally the ones who proposed to organize in this manner. The communists, as such, are not part of this coalition. Now then, in its rank-and-file activists and in its work it is, naturally, wide open to any person on the left, but while maintaining a socialist visibility and content, because those of us who organized this party are essentially socialists.

[COSAS] So you're not excluding the PC?

[Maira] We do not exclude the PC. On the contrary, we accept an alliance with the PC in the same way that we accept a broad leftist alliance, including various socialist organizations and independent sectors. But I must make it clear that whoever joins this electoral party will join the party we create and that we will not accept dual memberships. Therefore, all of us who join it will pledge to suspend our individual memberships so that we can become an integral part of this electoral vehicle. We will not exclude the communists and we will legalize ourselves while including them in our ranks, but they will have to suspend their memberships when they join. There is a reason why we issued a broad call, without exclusions of any kind.

[COSAS] I frankly cannot imagine Julieta Campusano or Luis Guastavino suspending their communist membership to join this coalition....

[Maira] Ah... That's something I don't know. But I think that when we organize as a party, and you're going to see this, we are going to have a great many independent figures, leaders of the country's social and cultural sectors and political leaders too, but I don't imagine, within the institutional framework in which we will be operating, that any of these individuals will be a leader of the party that we will be creating.

[COSAS] And will the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] have a place too?

[Maira] It is my understanding that they have made a decision not to register politically as a party and not to join any legalized party.

[COSAS] When the PPD [Party for Democracy] was created, people clearly understood what its main objective was. Now, do you think that they are going to understand just as clearly what the objectives of this new group is and that to join it they have to give up their original party membership?

[Maira] This is the same situation as faces the PPD. Socialists had to give up their membership to join the Party for Democracy. As for us, our emphasis is on trying to express the aspirations of equality, justice, freedom and social change of an overwhelming majority of Chileans, to express what in Chile is called a "leftist culture," but to express it in a more modern way in line with the requirements and conditions of these times.

[COSAS] The objectives of this broad leftist party and of the PPD would seem to be the same.

[Maira] We do not have the same objectives as the PPD.

[COSAS] What's the difference then?

[Maira] It is unpleasant and difficult to define one party in contrast to another....

[COSAS] I would say, rather, that it is illuminating....

[Maira] The fundamental difference, I would say, is that the broad leftist party that we are creating is a party that over the course of the campaign was able to win over and represent in an organized manner very broad sectors of this country, which through the Socialist Command for the No (COSONO) and other groups joined in and supported our enthusiastic work in the plebiscite. As a major sector that organized for this purpose and did not choose another avenue, it is entitled to legalize itself today. Moreover, we represent the values of the symbols of grassroots culture, of the culture of the Chilean left. In contrast, the PPD was a party that defined itself as instrumental, not programmatic. It defined itself in connection with a process, democratic control, and to this end it called on people right, left and center to take part as representatives and exercise democratic control. We do not define ourselves by tasks from the previous stage; we define ourselves by social objectives and goals that the majority sectors must achieve during the following stage. In this we do not agree with any other Chilean political force, because as far as I know, based on the

declaration of principles in our platform proposal, we will be the first to formulate this proposal and to fight for it under the common program of all democratic sectors that we will have to draft between now and the beginning of next year.

[COSAS] What is the purpose of having a legal left-wing party?

[Maira] The purpose is to show that in Chile there is a left that has aspirations of justice, equality and freedom and that is expressing itself through us.

Maira a Candidate?

[COSAS] A little over 2 months ago you stated that the plebiscite campaign should not be used to build up future parliamentary candidates. What do you think today? Are your people going to run for Congress?

[Maira] Today we are taking up the challenge of forming a democratic parliament, because this is on the agenda and part of the country's future. We are going to have candidates and we are going to try and make our strength felt in the scenario of parliament.

[COSAS] Would you agree to run for president if they nominated you?

[Maira] Let's say that the expectation of being a candidate for president of the republic is not on my horizon or on that of any IC activist.

[COSAS] And is being a deputy again or a senator not on your horizon either?

[Maira] We will decide that when the call has gone out and when we ascertain in a more or less transparent discussion among ourselves what options we have and in what places we could get grassroots support. I was a deputy from age 25 to 33 and I'm not dying of anguish to be one again. That was a period of my life that enriched me when I was quite young, but I don't stay awake nights thinking about repeating it.

[COSAS] Given all of your political experience, how do you see the country's immediate future? Is there going to be a dialogue with the armed forces to reform the constitution?

[Maira] Better conditions for the dialogue have been gradually created. It is, of course, unprecedented that the bloc of parties that won the plebiscite has decided to remain united and has put forth such a reasonable program. Remember what the government said was going to happen if the no vote won: chaos, disorder, shortages, etc., and nothing like this happened. The no vote won, and there have been neither excesses nor violence.

[COSAS] What would you say the attitude of the leaders has been?

[Maira] One of enormous magnanimity towards and respect for the losers.

[COSAS] And what is going on with the right-wing forces?

[Maira] It is indispensable for the right-wing forces to come out from under General Pinochet's wing, because 15 years is too long to be in the background, forced to support the general almost unconditionally, without being able to develop their own projects.

[COSAS] Lastly, what is the new baby going to be called, the one we have been talking about throughout this interview?

[Maira] The same thing always happens. Let's wait until the gestation period is over and then we'll baptize it.

[COSAS] And when is it going to be born?

[Maira] By late November we'll have our declaration of principles and the names of the provisional officers drawn up. And in March we'll legitimize the new child.

* Communist, Socialist Parties Discuss Coalition

33480042a Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish
10 Nov 88 pp 12-13

[Text] They know that it will not be a "natural" birth, that induction and forceps will be needed. They are in the thick of preparations. They are even bandying about names for the baby that will be born. The fact is that they never imagined that they would ever produce it. How could they suspect that one day, like good boys and girls, they would adapt to a legal order that they had renounced a thousand times!

There stands United Left (IU), thinking about the name that it will give to the "instrumental" political group with which it will meet the legal requirements to tackle the upcoming electoral challenge. Popular Party of the Left, Party of the Popular Left, Party of the Advanced Left and Popular Socialist Party were some of the names that were under study as this edition went to press.

At times reality is harsh. During the no-vote campaign most of the Marxist-Leninist parties, convinced that "no dictatorship conducts a plebiscite to lose it," predicted just one result: fraud. They were wrong.

And of course once more there came this business of self-criticism. The result: After 5 October the suspicion is that never using the ground rules established by Pinochet has ceased to be a matter of principle for IU. It so happens that all now agree (including the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left]-Renewal and the Communist Party) on the need to register a party to improve their position and, most importantly, not to be left out of the parliamentary elections. So, the always tangled homegrown left has become pragmatic all at once. Just tactical jockeying, they retort.

The Demands of the PC

They see other advantages to justify such major jockeying. They think that the new baby ought to be the solution to the scattering of the Left, which has still not managed to come to terms on how to rekindle the "mobilization."

The Communist Party [PC] is contributing a few ideas. Leader Jaime Inzunza explained to QUE PASA some of the demands that they have placed on the bargaining table. "Full democratization of society" starts with Pinochet's resignation and continues with constitutional reforms, such as repealing Article 8, and changes in the makeup of Congress. Then would come the "democratization of the Armed Forces," that is to say, replacing the National Security Doctrine with a National Defense Doctrine "that assigns to the Armed Forces their true functions: defending sovereignty and contributing to the tasks of the country's development." In the area of human rights, they are in favor of the leftist party demanding "prosecution of all the crimes committed during these 15 years." As for economic policy, they want to put an end to the model implemented by the government and to design another "that is in service to national interests and the demands of the country's majorities, especially the low-income and working sectors."

Not the Best, But...

The communists assert that their allies agree with these points. An Almeyda socialist replied to QUE PASA right away, however: "This business of inflating your demands is backward in politics. To make headway you have to have strength and represent the masses with your demands." In any event, the PC notes that if there is no agreement on including its demands in the new party's platform, it will not slit its wrists. That's understandable.

Before raising demands, the PC must address its delicate internal situation. Pessimistic diagnoses abound among its partners: "The PC has two heads," some say. Others, more decisive, feel that it is going through a true "schizoid" period.

The strategy of the grassroots rebellion has again become the target of discredit, and this time not just from the outside. It is also being strongly criticized within the PC, they said, even by major cadres.

The PC expects, of course, to take action in 1989. In fact, it will begin its 15th national congress, the party's highest body, this month after 20 years. The delegates in attendance (close to 3,000 are expected) are free to change or reaffirm the political line. Many hope to reaffirm there the armed struggle begun in 1980; others assume that as of this event the communists will return to their old practice of giving priority to politics.

We can thus understand the almost indulgent attitude of the PC towards the promotion of the leftist umbrella party. They have behaved cautiously, trying not to impede the initiative, perhaps because of their endemic fear of isolation.

Varying Intentions

The program for legal action certainly raises different expectations among the partners in IU. There has been talk about that in recent days. All indications are, indeed, that because time is running short they will start up without much circumspection. To put it more clearly, the presumption is that they will wait until things are under way before trying to put their own mark on the newborn.

Christian Left [IC] was the first to give this signal. The resolutions of its plenum, made public on 28 October, clearly revealed that it intended to unify the entire left in the formation of the new political entity. In passing, they sent a message to their men who were involved in the PPD [Party for Democracy]: They have to decide between membership in one or the other, but not both. This is something that MAPU [United Popular Action Movement]-Barrueto is not addressing with the same earnestness. They apparently seek to take part in every group there is, whether it is called the PPD, COSONO [Socialist Command for the No] or leftist party.

The Christian Left people went even further. At no time did they conceal their wish that Luis Maira preside over the new party.

The plenum of the Socialist Party [PS]-Almeyda was, of course, the most eagerly anticipated. As on other occasions, it was supposed to set the tone for the jockeying by the left. They ambitiously felt that this was the opportunity to remove some strategic obstacles, sort of like killing two birds with one stone: registration and the sought-after socialist unity.

Perhaps this is why they held their plenum, where on 28 and 29 October they discussed the advantages of registering their own party, in other words, responding once and for all to the initiatives of the Nunezes, who took over the PPD, the only legally recognized socialist group. Others thought that it would be wiser to promote a party in the "socialist space," bring together there Christian Left, MAPU-Barrueto and the small socialist groups that still exist, in other words, COSONO as a party. This stand obviously gave priority to something of a leading political role and kept the PC at a distance.

The option of registering a broad left-wing group was also raised at the plenum; to many this entailed a certain "sacrifice" of predominance by the socialists.

The PS-Almeyda ultimately opted for a "consensus" vote, of whose public version there were several interpretations. There was talk of "the registration of a legal instrument representative of the socialist space at the

disposal of the grassroots forces and of the progressive and leftist independents who have so far belonged to unlegalized parties." The intention of the socialist language was clear, but the party did not close ranks with a broad left-wing alliance. The emphasis was in the eye of the beholder.

What was not made public was that the political vote of "the more than 50 and fewer than 100 participants" spoke of giving priority to socialist leadership in the new party. The negotiations are now focusing on this.

Instrumental Versus Programmatic

Neither instrumental nor programmatic. Both at once. "It has to be an instrument to run in the elections with unified, broad involvement of the left in the campaign, but it must also be responsive to the interests of the low-income sectors." This was how Anibal Palma, the IU's current president, described the left-wing party. In other words, "a programmatic instrumental" party.

Things are clear to these Radicals. And this could be seen at their National Council, which was also held on the 27th and 28th. There was no debate. Naturally, there were no disagreements. The opening speech in the California Theater set the tone.

The left must take up the new task in the transition process and once again become the electoral force that it was until 1970, they said. The National Council reaffirmed the need for the left to register its party.

Luengo's Radicals feel that it is essential for the PC to see it this way. Therefore, they are pleased that it has joined the undertaking from the beginning. According to them, this is a sign of maturity, not just of the PC but of the entire left.

In Palma's view there are two likely procedures for giving birth to the planned party. The first is a merger, in other words, all of the parties that make it up will join legally. Only on paper, of course. This approach would, naturally, facilitate the full participation of the Social Democratic Radical Party (PRSD) and the membership of close to 30,000 people in the newly registered party. A federation of parties is also possible; this would, of course, require amending the law of parties, which is thought probable. "After all, the right needs it more than we do," a Radical remarked.

A Question of Structure

In short, the parties of IU are today in the thick of negotiations on the structure of the legal party. Certain complications can be glimpsed here, because of this business of profiles. We know that the PS-Almeyda is seeking a certain degree of preeminence in the new group's leadership bodies to give it "high socialist visibility." This was a resolution of the plenum. The debate is about the matter of predominance. The socialists will clearly not accept a power structure similar to IU's. That would "blur their profile."

Although certain difficulties are foreseen, there is optimism that the baby will be born during the next few days. In spite of the differences, what is being emphasized is the determination "to expedite the formalities." Time is running out. They are supposed to complete the registration process by March.

Expectations are running high. They hope to have "the biggest party of all." They talk of close to 100,000 signatures. The IC plans to contribute some 20,000, the PC a bit more. If to this we add the 30,000 from the PRSD (if there is a merger or a federation) and what the PS-Almeyda, which has great self-confidence, could round up, they would reach their goal.

A technical electoral commission on which representatives of the seven IU parties sit was put in charge of looking into the legal viability of the new instrument. Chaired by Radical Guillermo Arenas, the commission submitted a report to the Political Committee of IU. It contains several recommendations. The first, obviously, is to safeguard its legal existence. The understanding, thus, is that no public activist, former PC or PS-Almeyda legislator can appear on the list of members. Nor can spokesmen of the PRSD. The Law of Political Parties does not allow dual membership.

Hence, the idea of relying on the wide-ranging participation of independents has gained strength. The PC has even proposed some names of "founders": Tomas Moulian, Maria Elena Duvauchelle, Juan Pablo Cardenas and Gonzalo Martner, among others. They are obviously not ruling out the possibility of including in the leadership some official representatives of these parties who will not make the new group too much of a risk. This means some unknown communists and socialists, as well as Radicals who have to date not registered. There are several overseas, like Hugo Miranda and Edgardo Enriquez, names that are being mentioned in the corridors of IU.

Terrorist Attacks Include Setting Fires, Bombs

Bus Passenger Burned

PY1512130488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Text] A 21-year-old girl has suffered burns over 50 percent of her body during a terrorist attempt to set a passenger bus on fire. This happened in Quilpue, in the 5th Region.

Pedro Vergara will give us further reporting on this directly from Valparaiso.

[Begin Vergara recording] A 21-year-old girl was hospitalized in Vina del Mar in very serious condition after suffering burns over 50 percent of her body following a terrorist attack on a passenger bus in Quilpue. She has been identified as Claudia Albornoz Matillase, who lives at 456 Valencia Street in Quilpue.

As reported before, the attack was aimed at a passenger bus with license plate No 6H2838, on the road leading to Quilpue. [end recording]

Bomb Detonated in Temuco

PY1512174888 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Relay from Radio Nelol of Temuco]

[Text] Two terrorist attacks were staged in Temuco last night, but fortunately there were no victims. Through phone calls to various local mass media, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The first attack occurred at about 2250 in the Amanecer area, on the southern bank of the Cautin River in southern Temuco. According to the police, unknown persons detonated a bomb at the base of two electric poles that supported a 150-kw transformer. The bombing caused a power outage in the area, affecting the power network that feeds private houses. The people panicked.

The second and more violent attack occurred at about 2330 near the milestone marking km 695 on the railroad, near the (?Licanco) sector, some 24 km south of Temuco. The bomb caused damage over a short (?stretch) of the track. The bomb contained 800 grams of ammonium gelignite. Attacks in this city and in Santiago, and the damage to the railroad track, have delayed railway services. No casualties have been reported so far. The bombings disturbed the tranquillity of this regional capital.

Bombing Reported in Chillan

PY1512180788 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Dec 88

[Relay from Radio El Sembrador of Chillan]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The detonation of a bomb that contained 3.5 kg of ammonium gelignite knocked down electric tower 39 of the Charrua-Colbun Grid, 16 km from Temuco in Nuble Province at 0025 last night [14 Dec].

Carabineros reported that the bomb was detonated by a clockwork mechanism, and that a phrase reading Toward a National Patriotic War MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] was found painted in the area.

Early today three other powerful blasts were heard in southwestern Chillan. The police, however, have released no information on these explosions.

FPMR Fails Attempt To Broadcast Proclamation

PY1512105688 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Dec 88

[Relay from Valparaiso]

[Text] At approximately 1315 today, a Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] cell tried to broadcast a subversive proclamation, recorded on a cassette, inside the Caracol Porteno building at 1265 Conde Street of Valparaiso. The terrorists were planning to use the loudspeaker system in the building.

This subversive maneuver was prevented initially by the security guard in the building, and then by a Carabinero patrol who arrested four FPMR extremists. One of the extremists shot at a Carabinero who fired back. The security guard in the building was injured in this exchange of fire.

The extremists were carrying a 9-mm pistol, a revolver, a homemade 12-gauge shotgun, and a cassette with a proclamation related to the FPMR anniversary.

The following persons were arrested: Alejandro Alfredo Antonio Araya Yutronich, 18, high-school student; Juan Pablo Vidal Munoz, 24, single; Ricardo Montoya Jana, 19, single; Claudio Fernando Rivas Zaya, 23, single. All of these people have political and subversive records.

The home of one of the arrested extremists was raided at 1530 in keeping with a court order. In this building, located at 221 Ramos Street, the police found a homemade shotgun, 12 meters of fuse, 6 detonators, ammunition of various calibers, 5 kg of ANFO [ammonium-nitrate fuel oil blasting agent], a manual on the manufacture of explosives, and a clockwork mechanism for a bomb.

Naval Judge Acquits Former Communist Deputy

PY1512211388 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 3 Dec 88 p C-2

[Text] Valparaiso—Valparaiso Naval Judge Vice Admiral Fernando Navajas Irigoyen has ordered the definitive acquittal of former Communist Deputy Luis Guastavino. This case has been in the courts since 1973. Guastavino was prosecuted for offending the Armed Forces and its members.

Yesterday afternoon the judge, through his secretary, informed attorney Horacio Varela about his ruling. Varela, who defended Guastavino, requested his acquittal, arguing that the statute of limitations is applicable to the charges brought against him.

The naval judge's ruling states that Luis Guastavino has been completely acquitted for the crimes for which he was being tried since the statute of limitations is applicable to the charges.